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STRAIGHT ARROW



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F. Meagher



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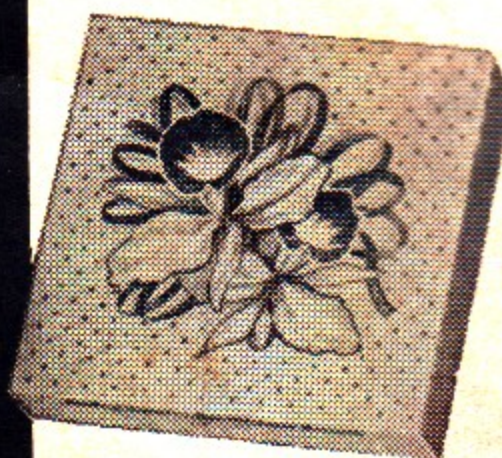
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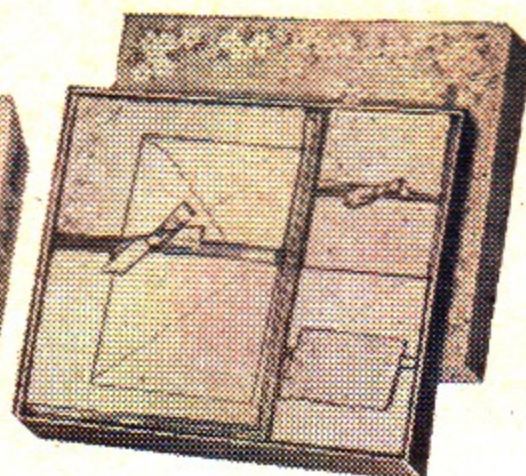
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STRAIGHT ARROW

THE MEDICINE FAST OF A YOUNG INDIAN WARRIOR IS THAT TIME WHEN HE GOES INTO THE HILLS TO WAIT FOR HIS PERSONAL TOTEM, OR GOOD LUCK VISION. HE EATS NOTHING, AND DRINKS SPARINGLY. HE SEES A "VISION" WHICH BECOMES HIS LIFELONG TOTEM. WHEN SLEEPY WOLF, YOUNG COMANCHE, BRAVE, UNDERTAKES HIS OWN MEDICINE FAST, HE DOES NOT KNOW THAT STRAIGHT ARROW WILL BE ENDANGERED BY—THE MYSTERY PAINTED ON—
"THE SHIELD OF SLEEPY WOLF!"



FOR TWO WEEKS, SLEEPY WOLF HAS BEEN IN THE MOUNTAINS WITHOUT FOOD. HE IS WEAK AND EXHAUSTED, BUT STILL HE HOPES...

WHERE IS MY VISION? WHY DON'T I SEE IT?

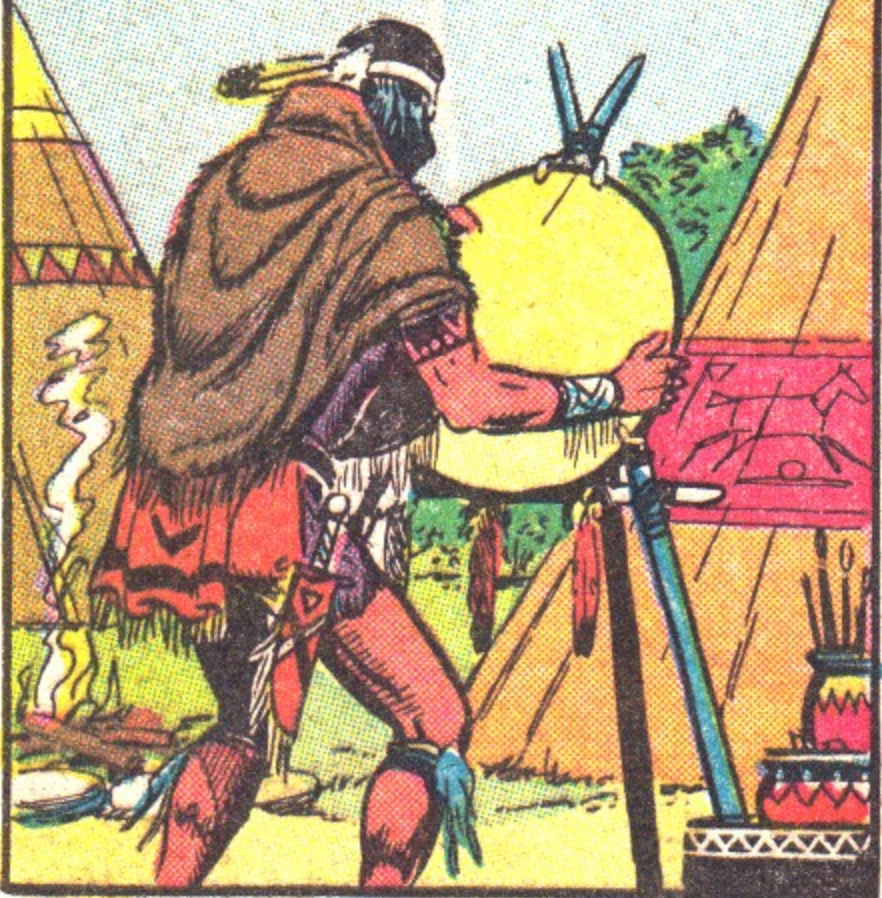


SUDDENLY HE CRIES OUT HARSHLY—

I SEE IT! I SEE IT! MY VISION HAS COME TO ME AT LAST!



BACK TO THE COMANCHE TEPEES GOES SLEEPY WOLF. HE SITS ALONE BEFORE HIS TEPEE....



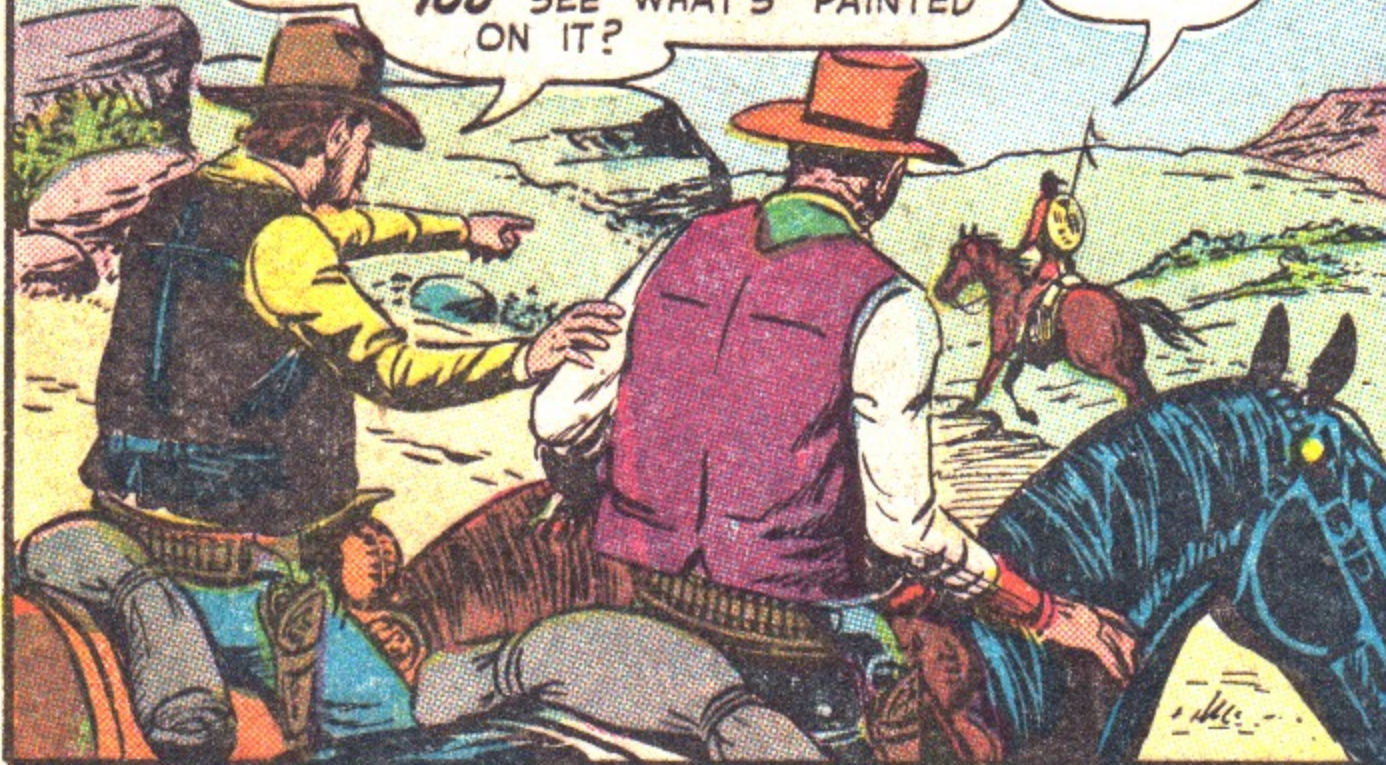
SLOWLY A PICTURE TAKES PLACE UNDER HIS FINGERS AS HE USES HERB DYES AND PIGMENTS TO PAINT HIS VISION ON HIS BLANK SHIELD....



SOME DAYS LATER, AS THE YOUNG COMANCHE BRAVE RETURNS FROM THE HUNT...

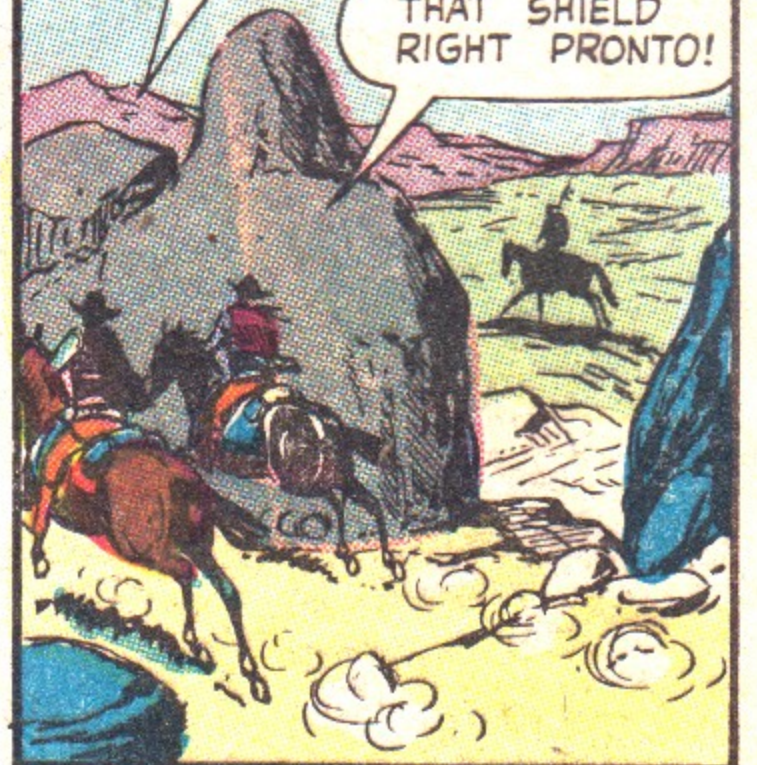
SID! LOOK AT THAT SHIELD! DID YOU SEE WHAT'S PAINTED ON IT?

I SURE DID!



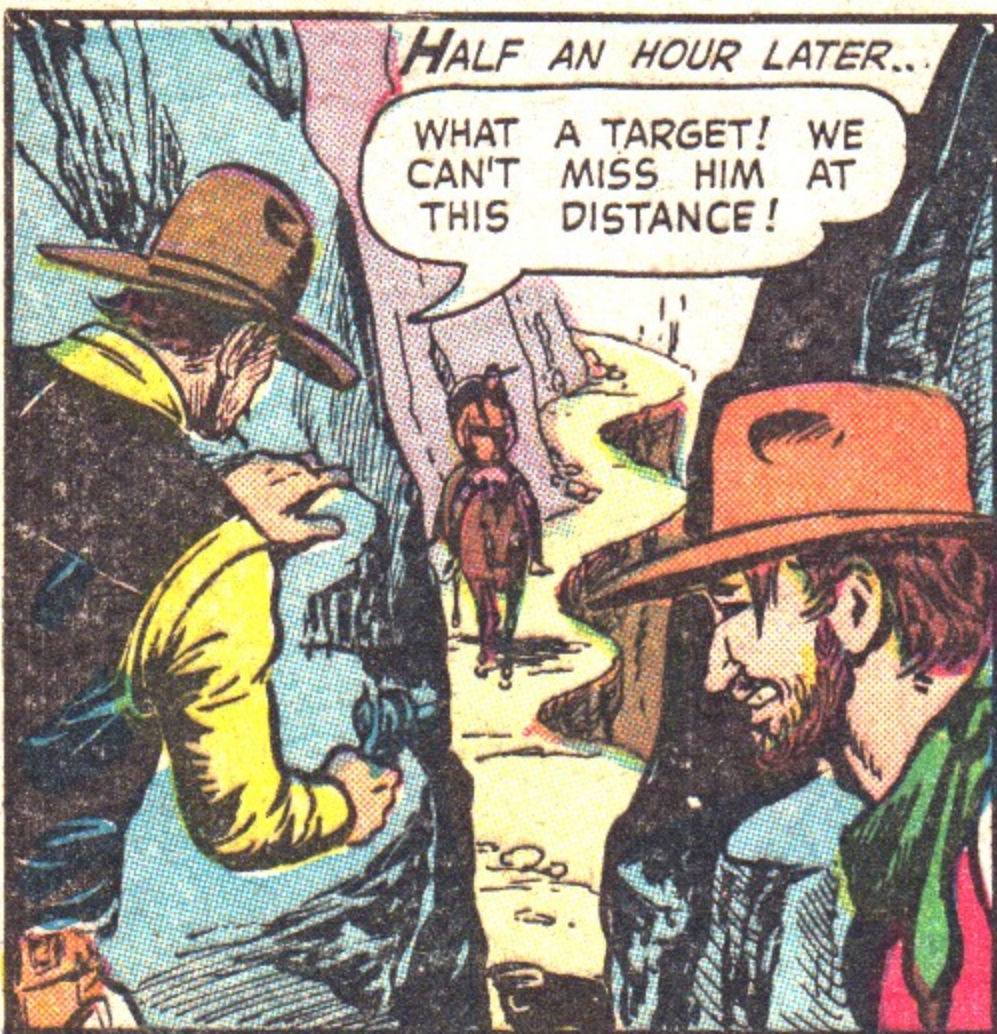
COME ON! WE'LL HEAD HIM OFF AT EAGLE CANYON!

YEAH. WE'LL FINISH HIM AND BURN THAT SHIELD RIGHT PRONTO!



HALF AN HOUR LATER...

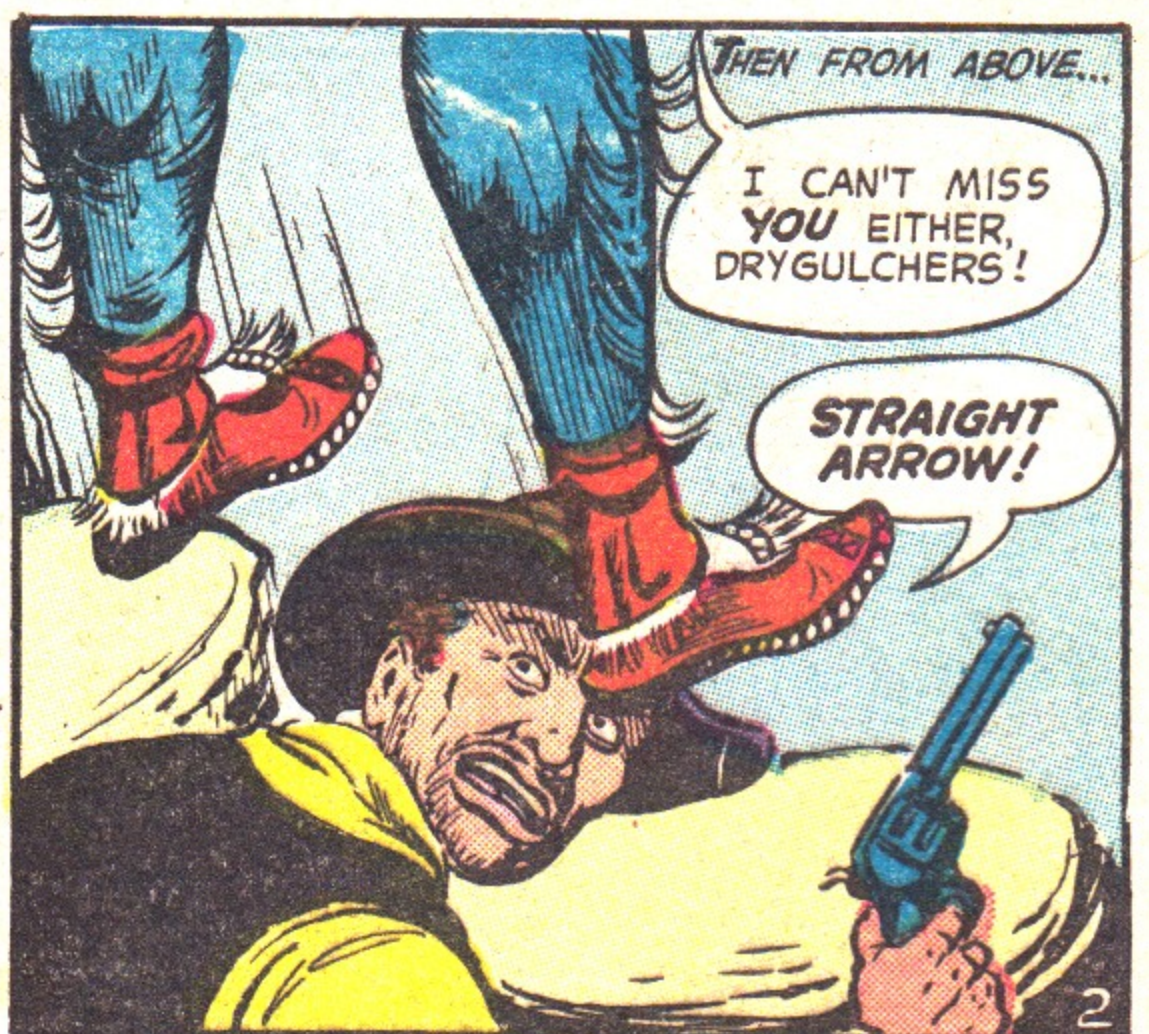
WHAT A TARGET! WE CAN'T MISS HIM AT THIS DISTANCE!

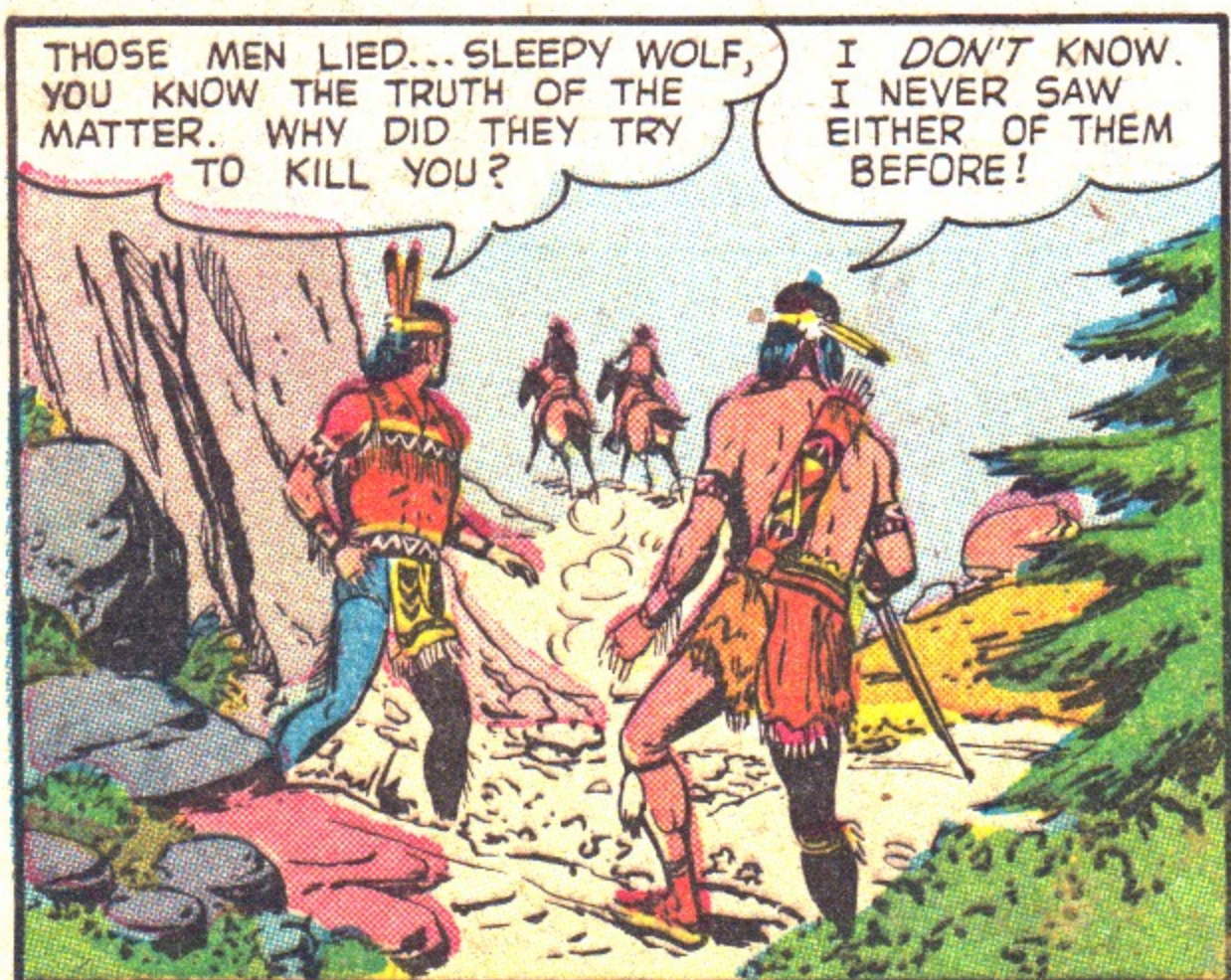
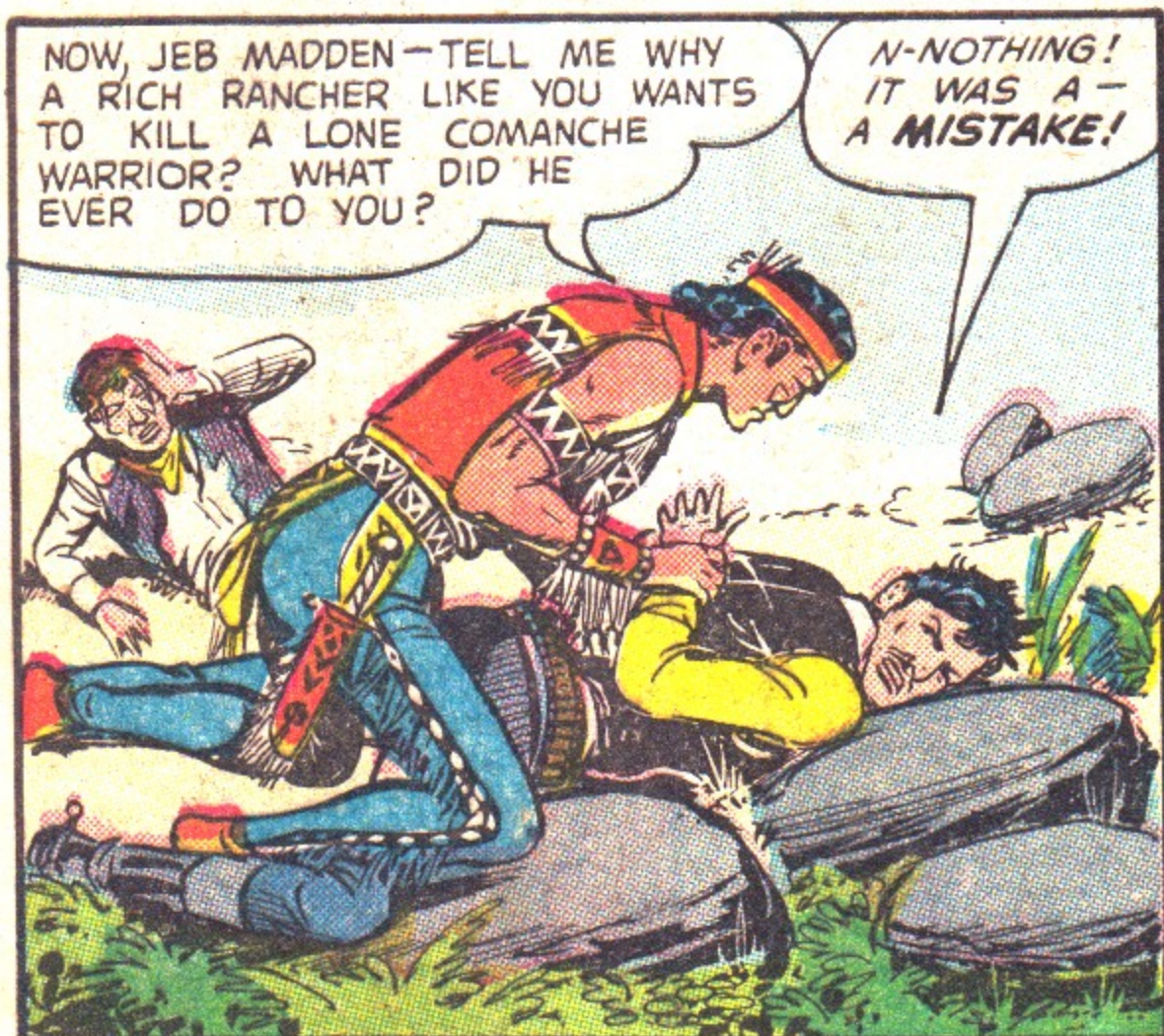
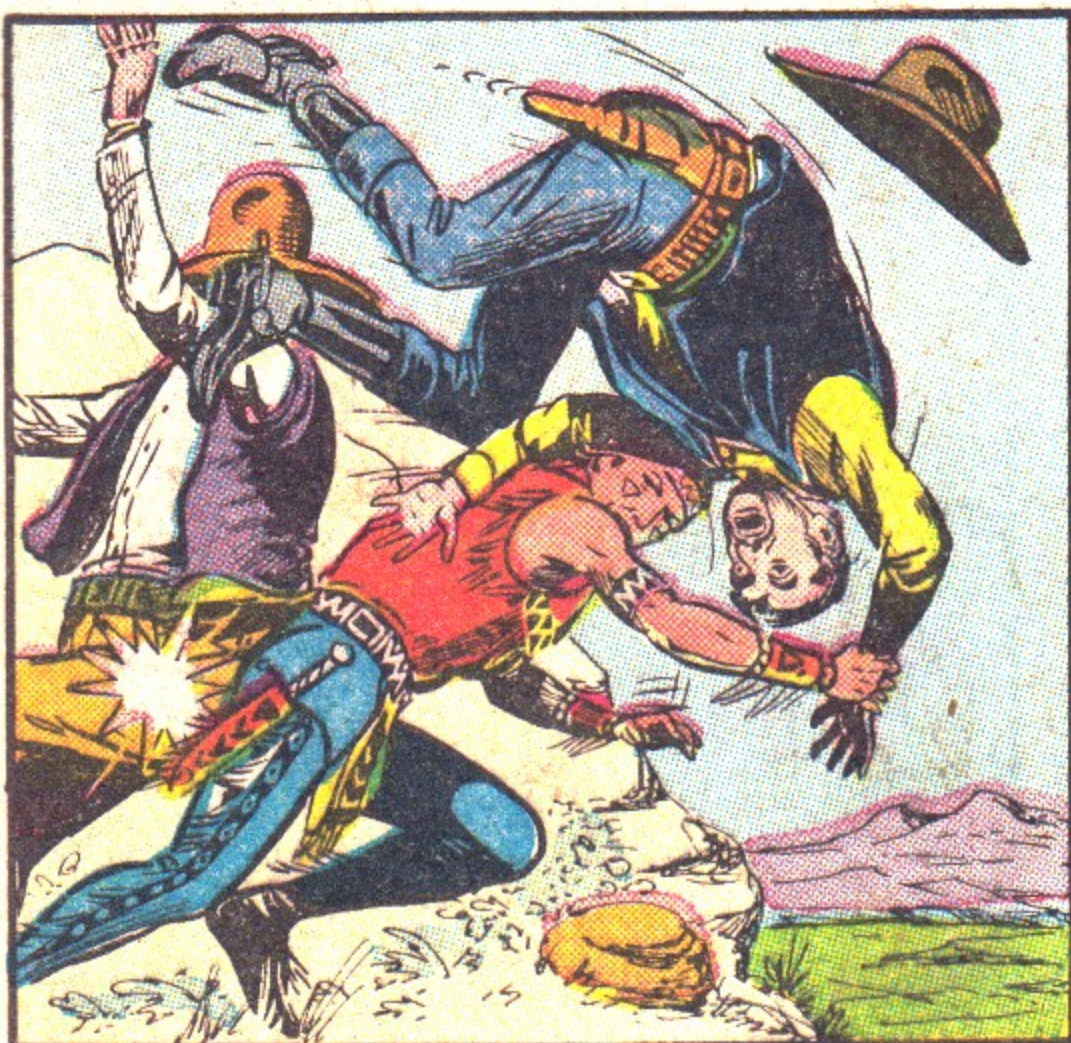


THEN FROM ABOVE...

I CAN'T MISS YOU EITHER, DRYGULCHERS!

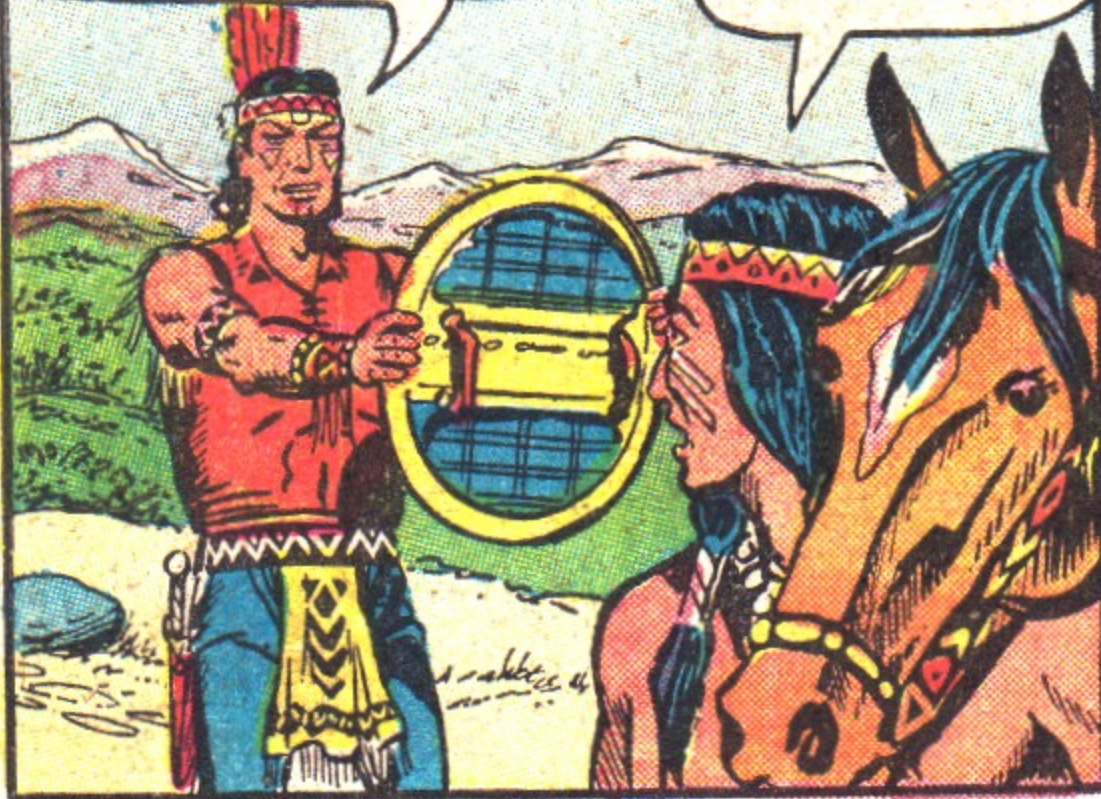
STRAIGHT ARROW!



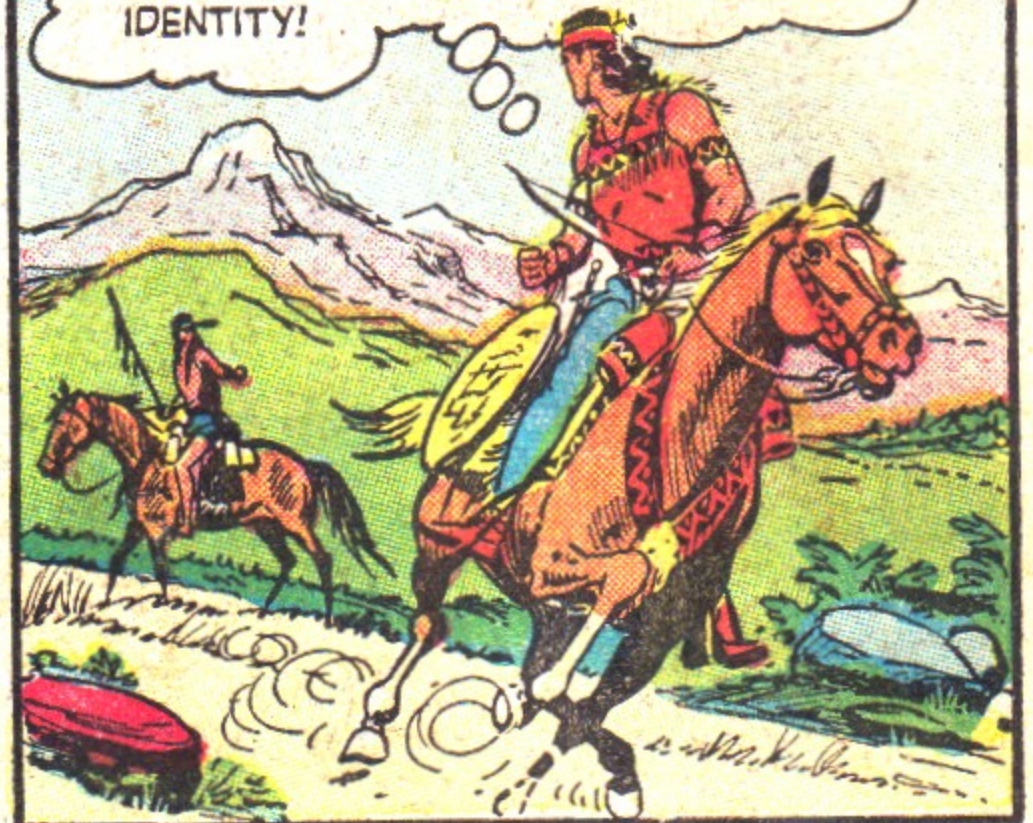


THIS NEW SHIELD OF YOURS! THERE'S SOMETHING STRANGELY FAMILIAR ABOUT THIS PICTURE YOU'VE DRAWN ON IT! LET ME BORROW IT, SLEEPY WOLF!

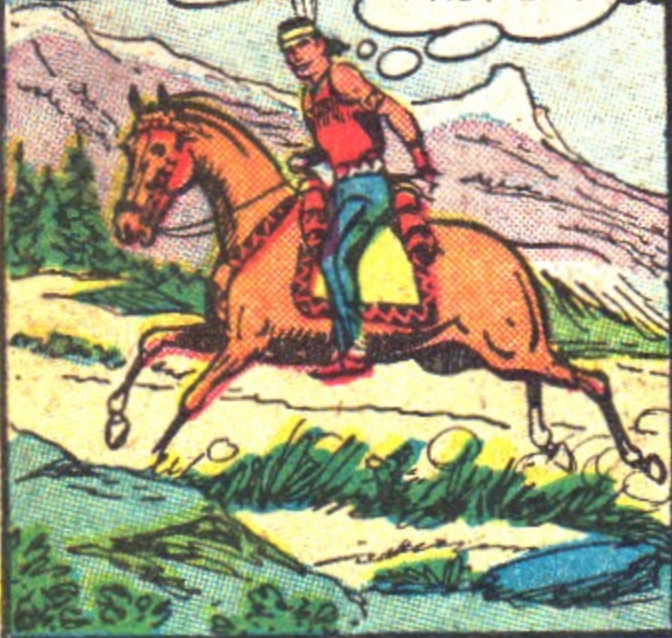
BUT THAT'S MY MEDICINE TOTEM! I SAW IT IN MY FAST VISION SOME DAYS AGO!



I COULDN'T TELL SLEEPY WOLF THAT, AS STEVE ADAMS, I HEARD MADDEN AND HIS FRIEND PLANNING TO ATTACK HIM BECAUSE OF THIS SHIELD! IT WOULD HAVE REVEALED MY DOUBLE IDENTITY!



FOR SOME REASON, WHATEVER IS ON THIS SHIELD FRIGHTENS JEB MADDEN SO MUCH HE'S WILLING TO KILL BECAUSE OF IT! NOW TO RIDE TO THE SECRET CAVE, WHERE I'LL FIND WHAT I NEED FOR THE ANSWER!

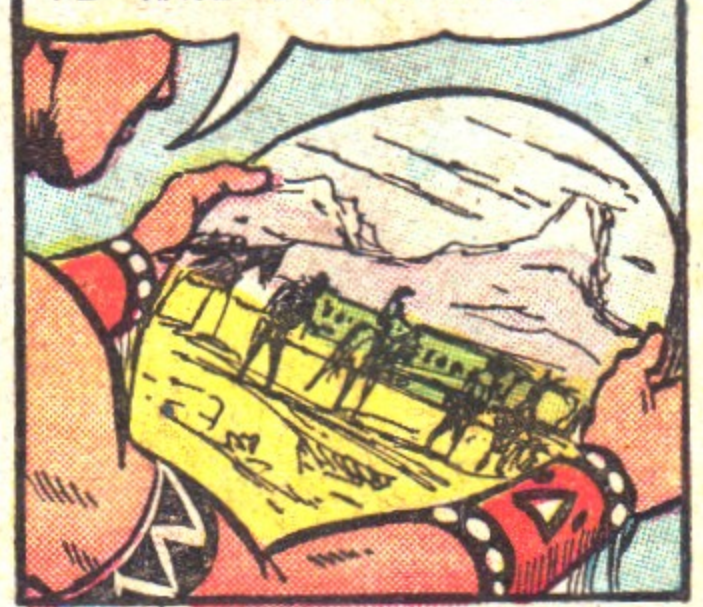


SOMEWHAT LATER, IN THE SECRET CAVE IN SUNDOWN VALLEY...

OF COURSE! THE RECENT ISSUE OF THE SAW-TOOTH JUNCTION NEWSPAPER CARRIES A PICTURE OF THE RAILROAD TRAIN THAT WAS HELD UP THIS PAST WEEK AND A PICTURE OF WHERE THE ROBBERY TOOK PLACE. NO WONDER THAT SHIELD PICTURE LOOKED SO FAMILIAR!

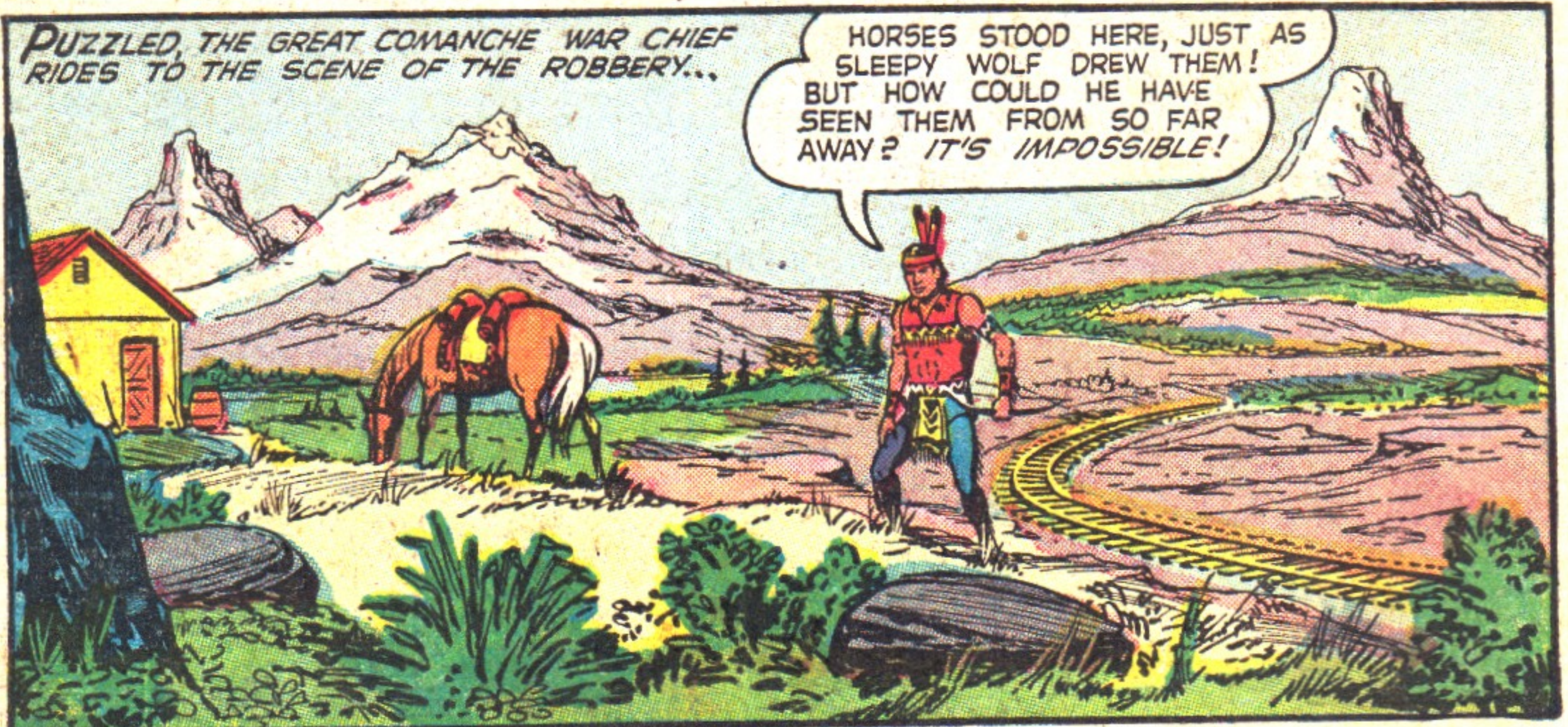


SLEEPY WOLF PAINTED A PICTURE OF A ROBBERY TAKING PLACE AT EXACTLY THAT SAME SPOT! AND I CAN RECOGNIZE JEB MADDEN...AND SID...AND TWO MORE OF HIS RANCH HANDS! BUT SLEEPY WOLF WAS ON THE MOUNTAINTOP AT THE TIME! HOW COULD HE HAVE DRAWN THIS!



PUZZLED, THE GREAT COMANCHE WAR CHIEF RIDES TO THE SCENE OF THE ROBBERY...

HORSES STOOD HERE, JUST AS SLEEPY WOLF DREW THEM! BUT HOW COULD HE HAVE SEEN THEM FROM SO FAR AWAY? IT'S IMPOSSIBLE!

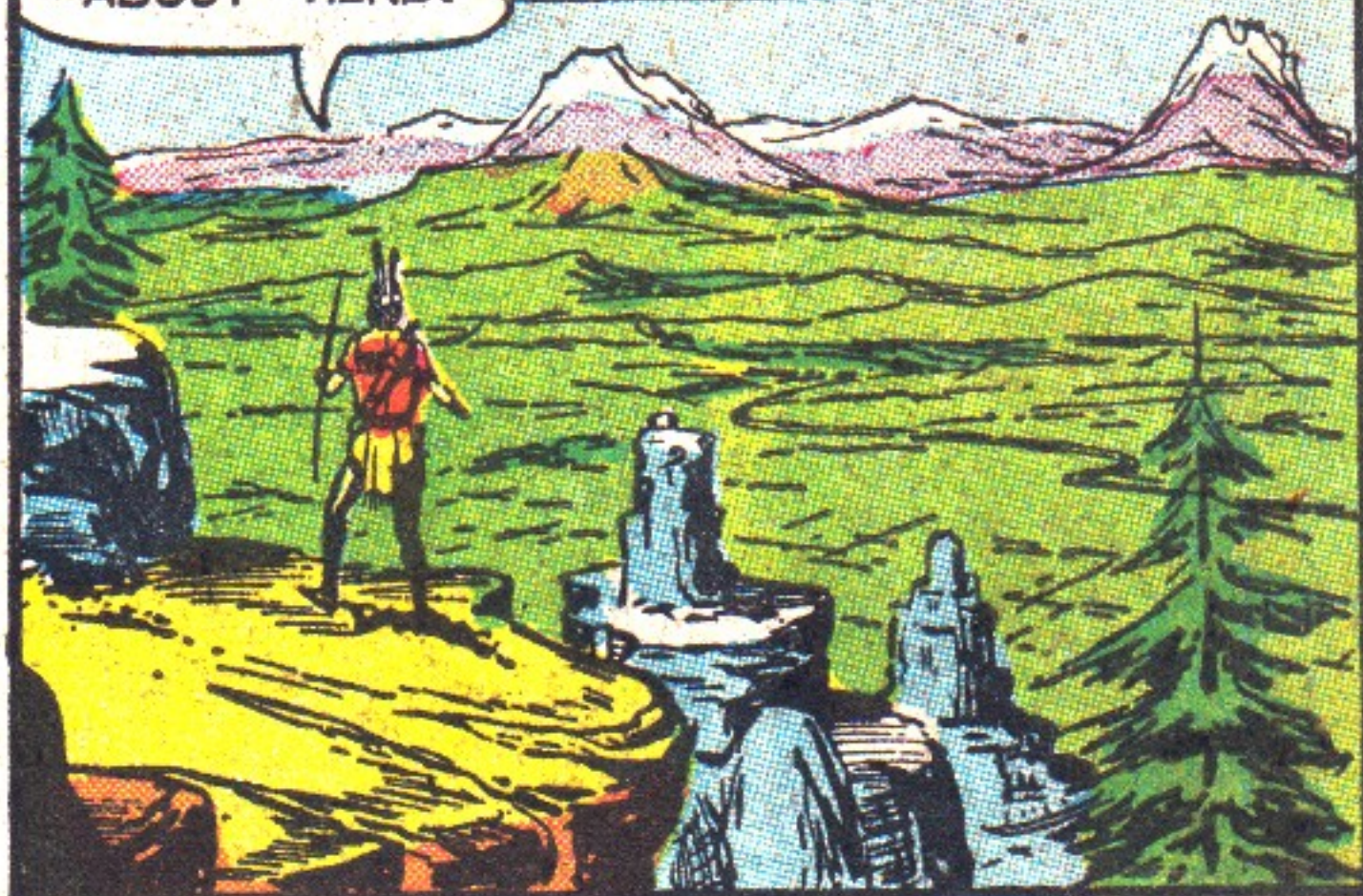


TRACKING DOWN HIS CLUES, STRAIGHT ARROW RIDES INTO THE HIGH HILLS WHERE THE YOUNG COMANCHE WARRIORS GO FOR THEIR MEDICINE FASTS...

THIS IS WHERE SLEEPY WOLF CAMPED.



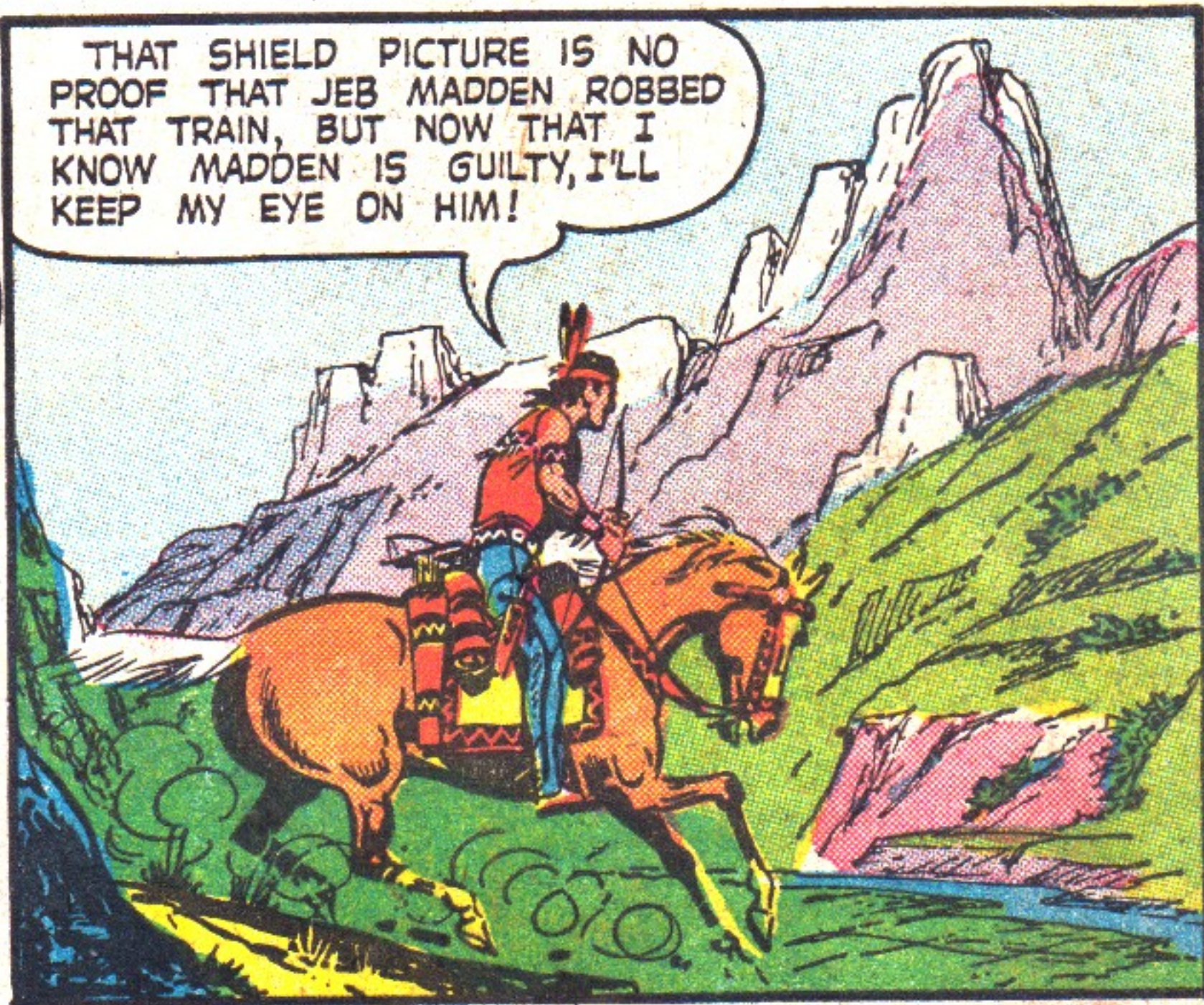
OF COURSE! I UNDERSTAND NOW HOW HE SAW HIS VISION! THIS CLIFF LOOKS DOWN OVER A VALLEY WHERE WARM AIR CIRCULATES! THE LESS DENSE LAYERS OF THAT WARM VALLEY AIR MEETS THE COLD MOUNTAIN AIR RIGHT ABOUT HERE!



THOSE TWO LAYERS OF AIR FORMED A **MIRAGE!** AND IN A MIRAGE, DISTANT THINGS CAN BE SEEN ON A LARGE SCALE, BY A REFRACTION OF LIGHT! AT JUST THE TIME THAT ROBBERY HAPPENED, A MIRAGE OF IT FORMED SO THAT SLEEPY WOLF SAW IT! HE THOUGHT HE WAS SEEING HIS TOTEM MEDICINE!

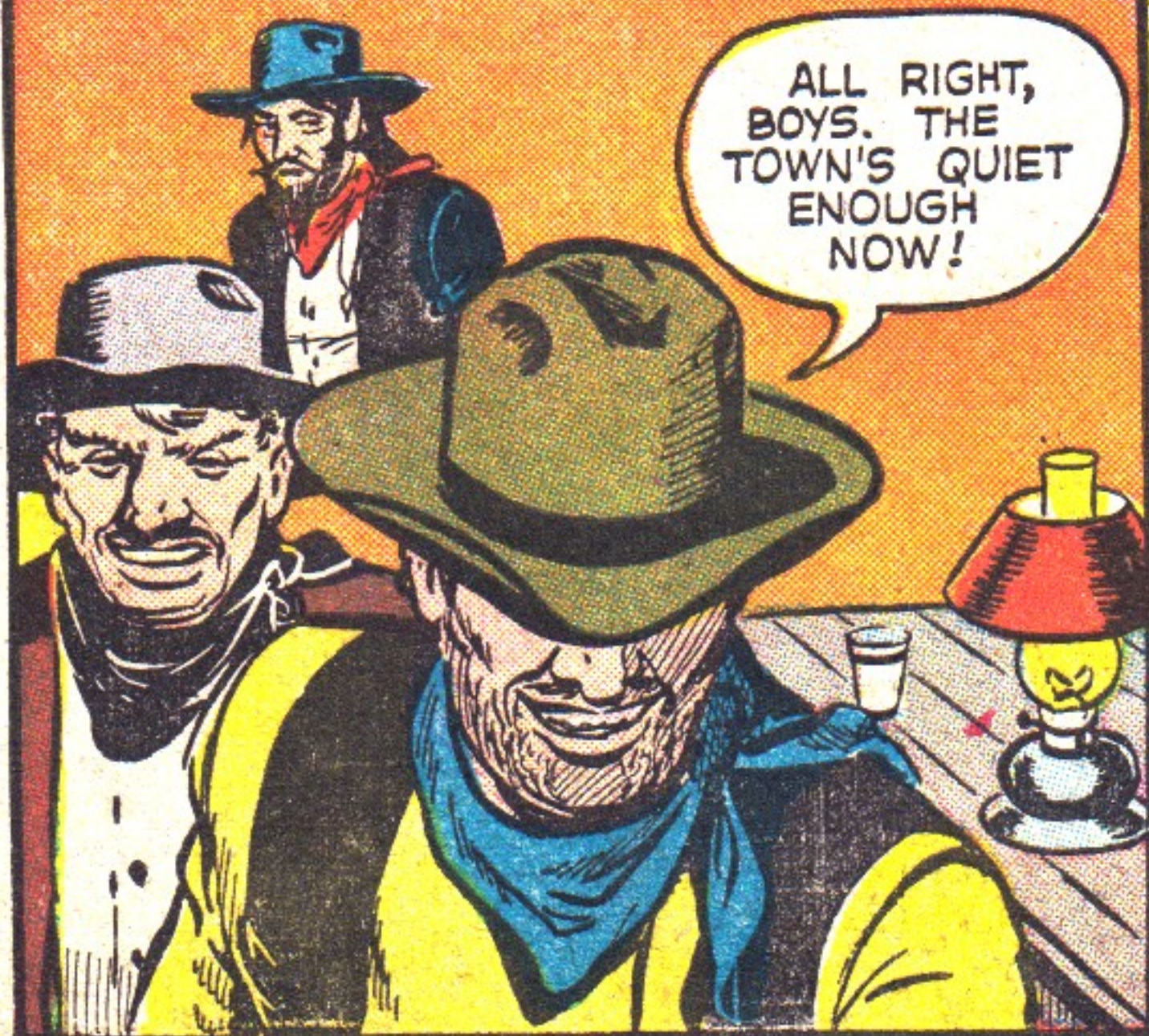


THAT SHIELD PICTURE IS NO PROOF THAT JEB MADDEN ROBBED THAT TRAIN, BUT NOW THAT I KNOW MADDEN IS GUILTY, I'LL KEEP MY EYE ON HIM!



THAT NIGHT, IN SAWTOOTH JUNCTION —

ALL RIGHT, BOYS. THE TOWN'S QUIET ENOUGH NOW!



WE CAN ROB THE BANK VAULT AND BE OUT OF HERE INSIDE TEN MINUTES. I HAVE EVERYTHING PLANNED. NOBODY WILL EVER KNOW WE WERE HERE — UNTIL THEY FIND THE MONEY GONE! BY THAT TIME WE'LL BE SAFE AWAY!



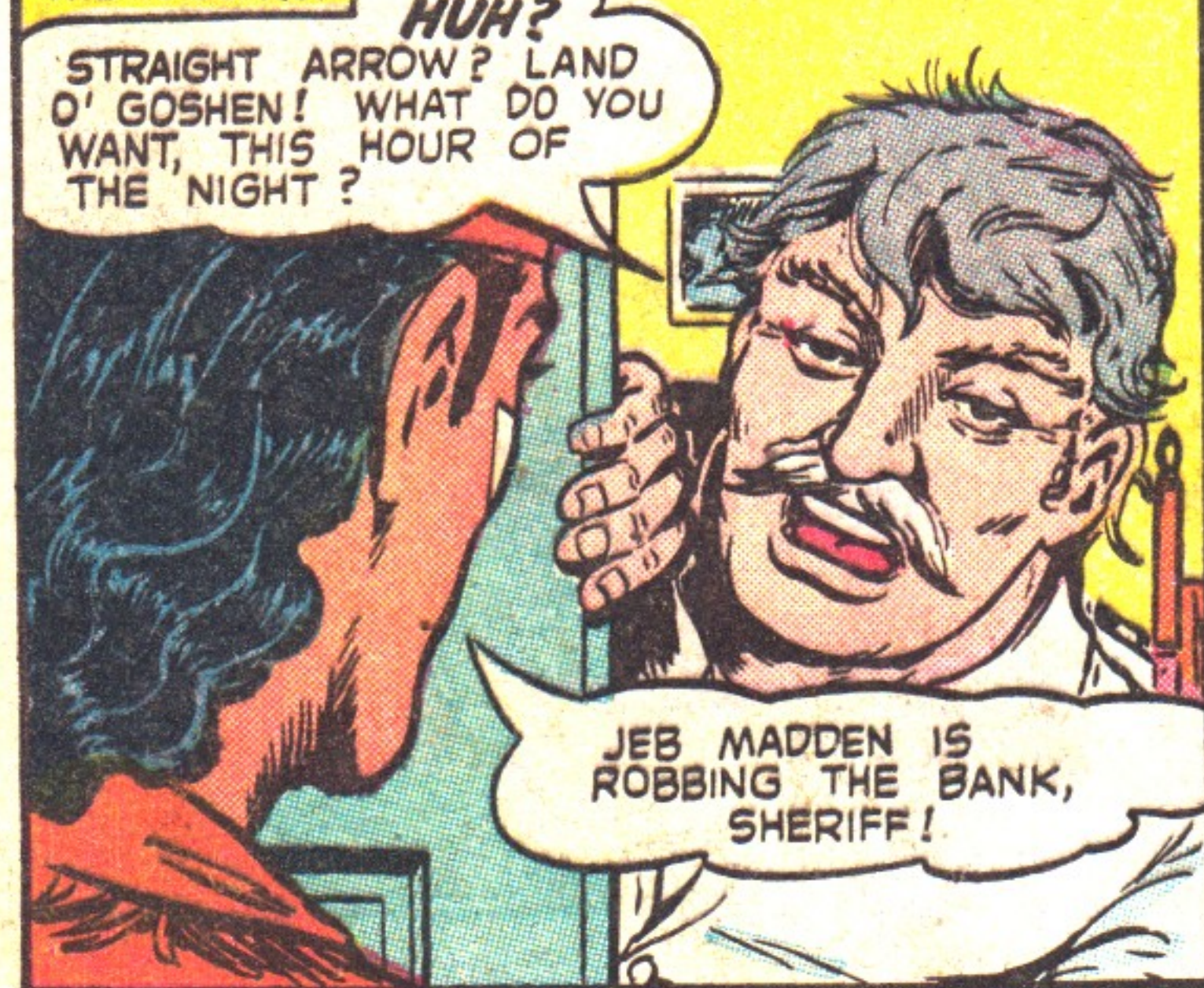
As the bank door closes behind the robbers, a figure stirs in the shadows of the town livery stable corral...



I'D GO IN AFTER THEM, BUT THAT'S THE SHERIFF'S JOB. AND SINCE I HAVE TIME ENOUGH TO GET HIM, I'LL LET HIM HANDLE THEIR CAPTURE!



BUT THE SHERIFF IS A HEAVY SLEEPER, AND IT IS MANY MINUTES BEFORE HE POKES HIS HEAD FROM THE DOOR...



I SAW HIM AND HIS MEN GO IN THE BANK ONLY A FEW MINUTES AGO!

JEB MADDEN? ROBBING THE BANK? YOU MUST BE LOCO, STRAIGHT ARROW!



WELL, THEY AIN'T INSIDE NOW! THE BANK IS LOCKED AND CLOSED. I RECKON YOU MUST HAVE BEEN SEEING THINGS!



SOME MILES FROM TOWN AND RIDING FAST...

THAT COMANCHE CAN'T HAVE SEEN **THIS** ROBBERY! IT'S AT NIGHT! RECKON WE'RE SAFE ENOUGH NOW. LET'S STOP A WHILE AND LET THE HORSES REST....

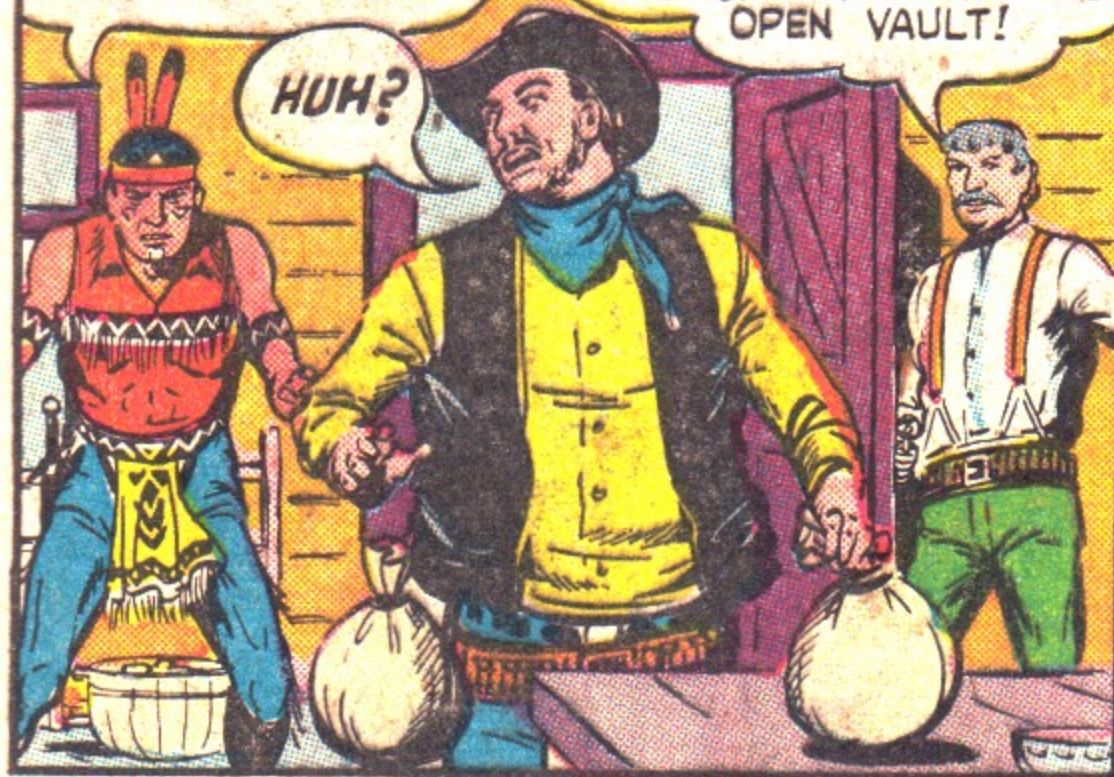


AN HOUR AFTER MIDNIGHT, JEB MADDEN FLINGS OPEN THE DOOR OF HIS RANCH HOUSE....

YOU SEE, SHERIFF? JEB MADDEN STILL HAS THE LOOT FROM THE BANK IN HIS HAND!

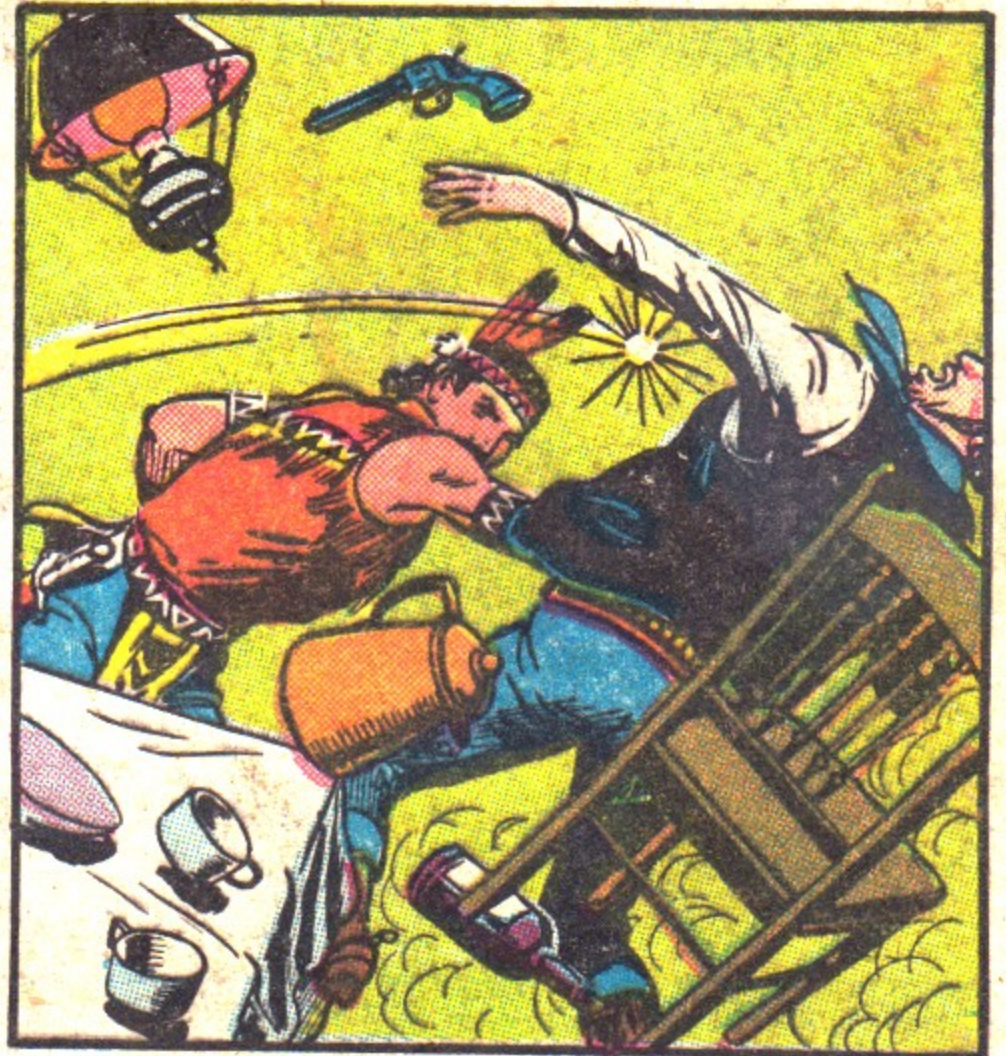
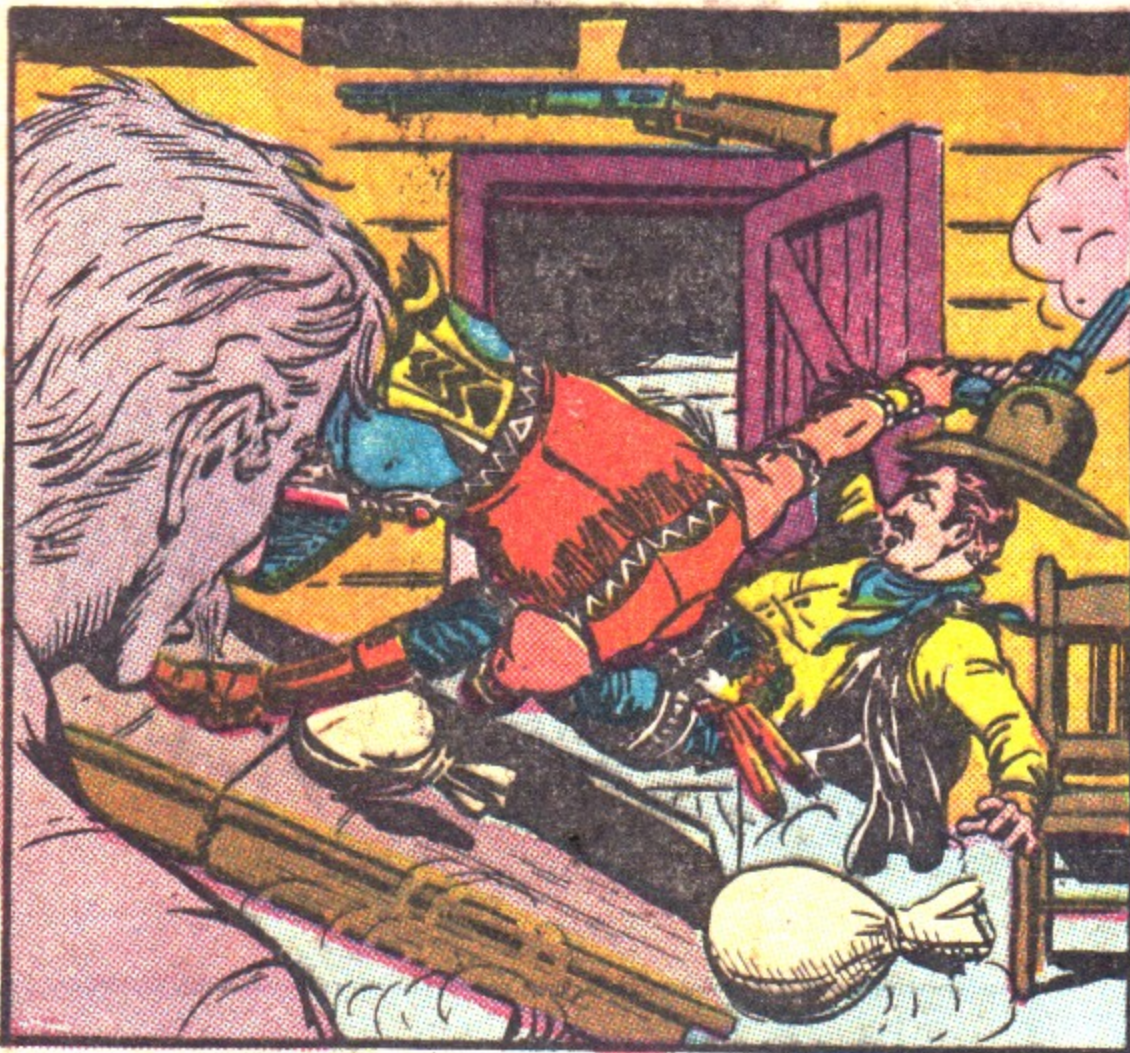
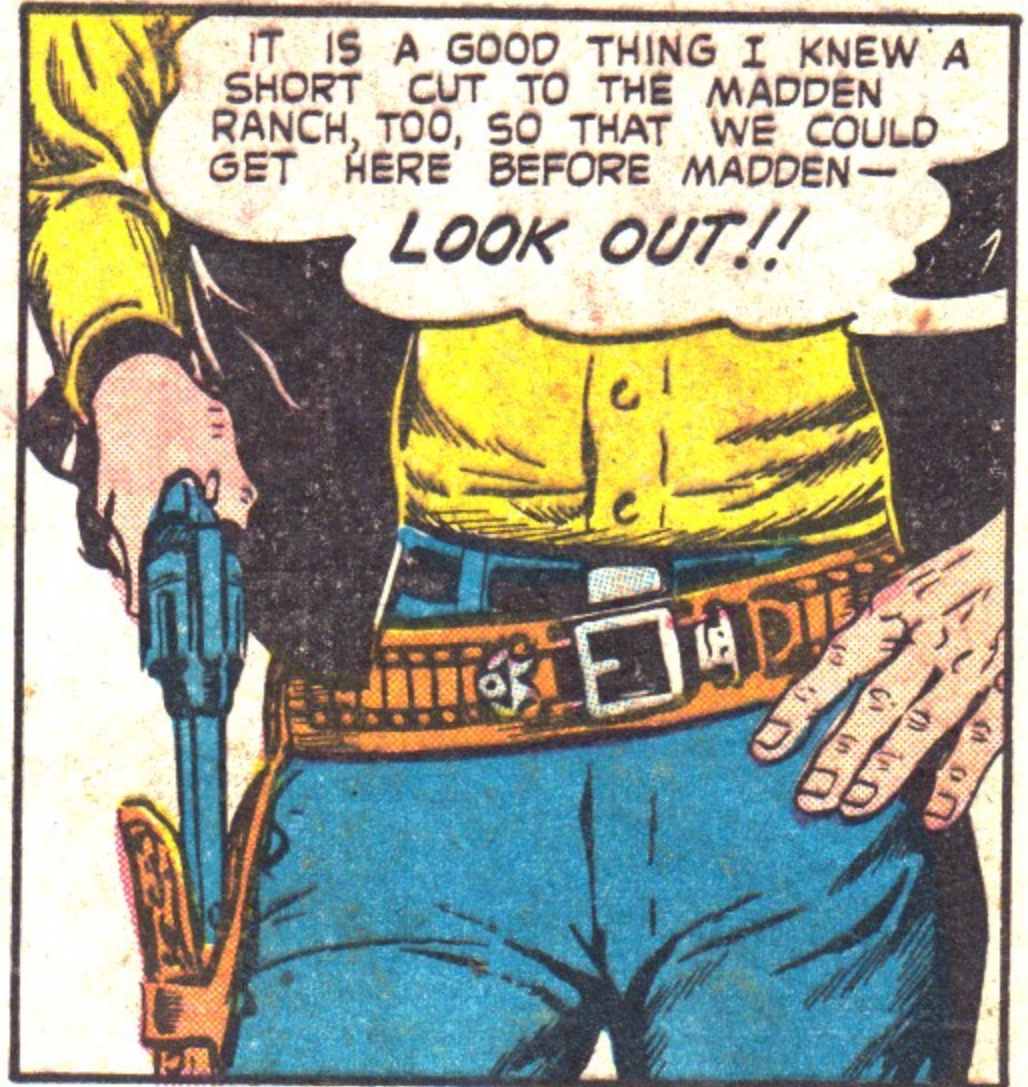
DOGGONE! IT'S A GOOD THING I TOOK YOUR WORD AND WENT INTO THE BANK AND SAW THE OPEN VAULT!

HUH?



IT IS A GOOD THING I KNEW A SHORT CUT TO THE MADDEN RANCH, TOO, SO THAT WE COULD GET HERE BEFORE MADDEN—

LOOK OUT!!



HERE HE IS, SHERIFF! HE'S ALL YOURS FROM NOW ON. I THINK YOU'LL FIND HIS MEN IN THE BUNKHOUSE, COMPLETELY UNAWARE THAT WE CAPTURED THEIR LEADER!



NEXT MORNING, AT THE COMANCHE CAMP —

YOUR MEDICINE TOTEM IS STRONG INDEED, SLEEPY WOLF! IT HELPED US CATCH THE MAN WHO TRIED TO KILL YOU!

YOU MADE THE MEDICINE STRONG, STRAIGHT ARROW. FOR NO MEDICINE IS STRONGER THAN THE MAN WHO USES IT!



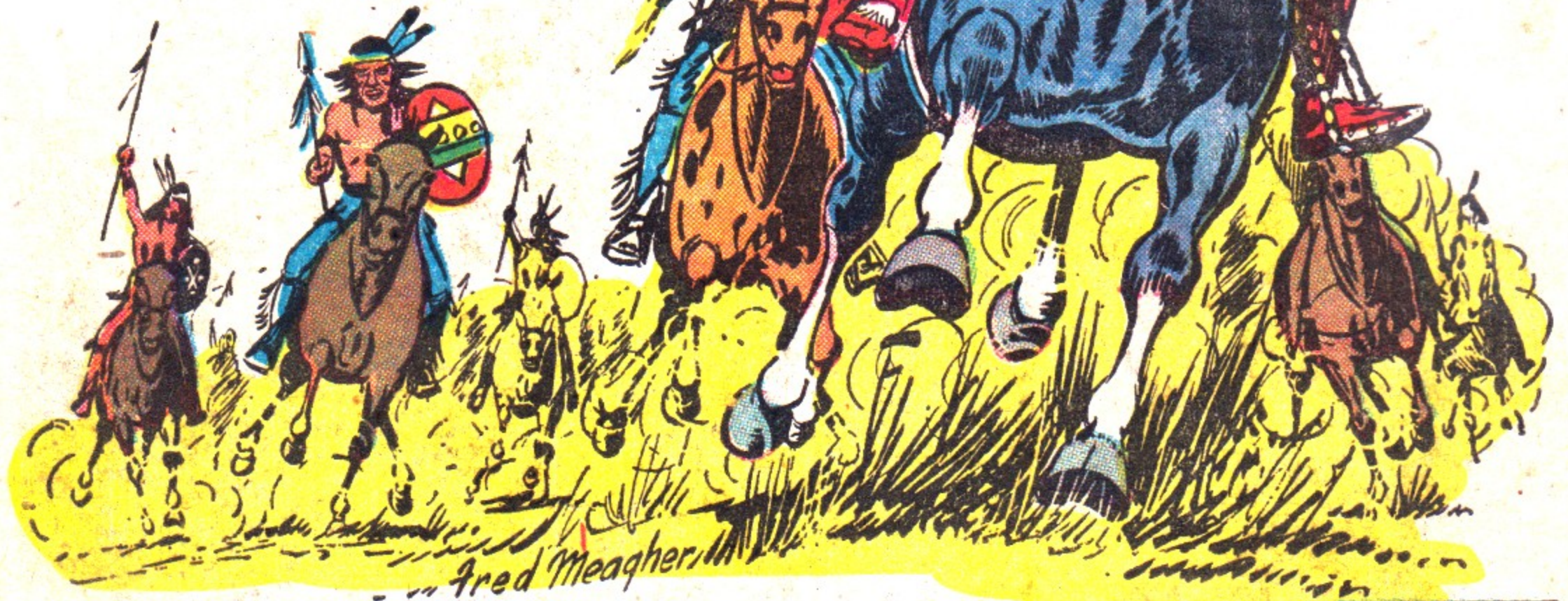
THE END

STRAIGHT ARROW

TO FRIEND AND FOE ALIKE, STEVE ADAMS IS THE OWNER OF THE BROKEN BOW CATTLE SPREAD... BUT WHEN DANGER THREATENS INNOCENT PEOPLE, STEVE ADAMS DISAPPEARS, AND IN HIS PLACE GALLOPS A MYSTERIOUS, STALWART INDIAN—WEARING THE GARB AND WARPAINT OF A COMANCHE, AND RIDING THE GREAT PALOMINO, FURY...!

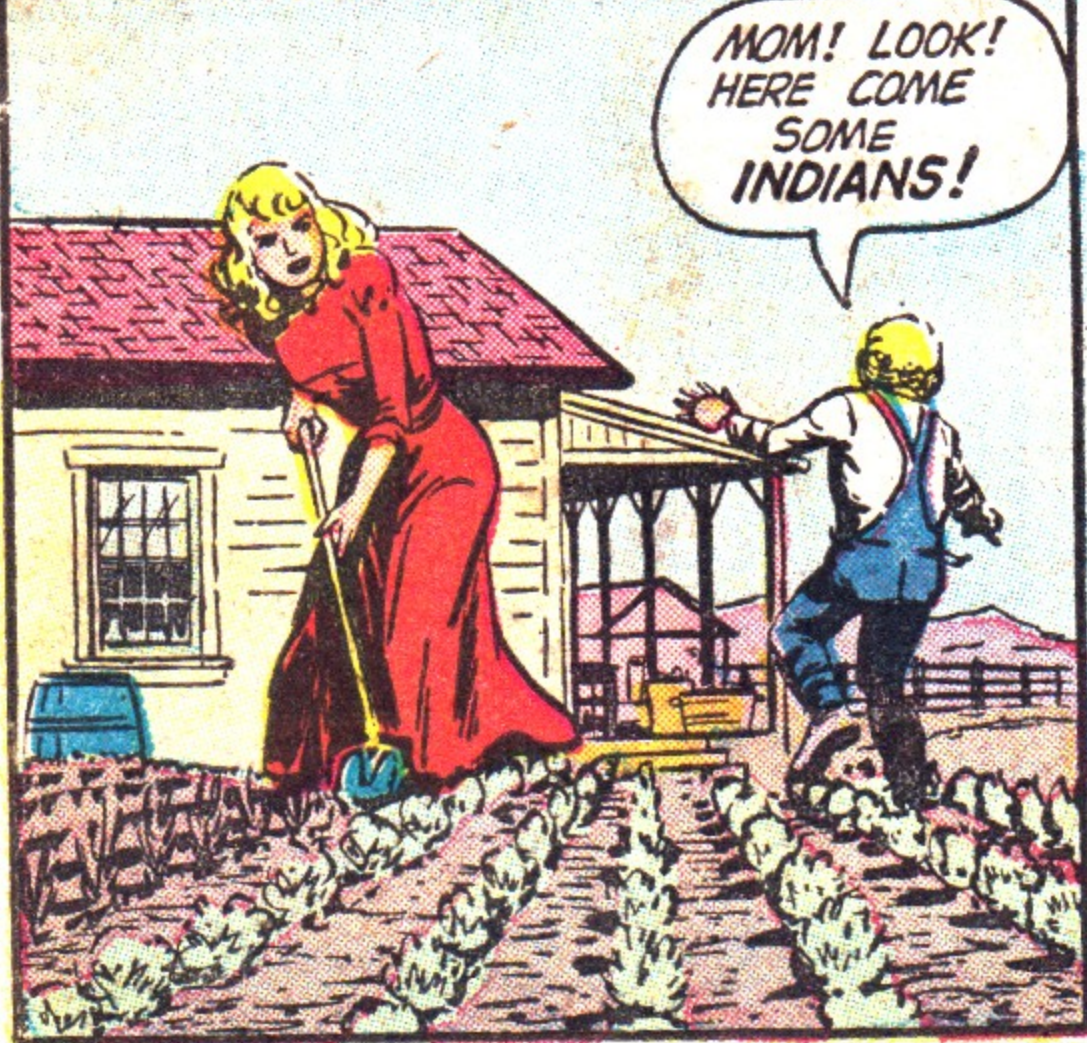
AND AS **STRAIGHT ARROW** RIDES THE PERILOUS WEST TO DEFEAT THE WICKED DEEDS OF BAD MEN, HE MAKES MANY ANGRY ENEMIES... THIS IS THE STORY OF HOW SOME OF THEM DECIDE TO END THE GREAT COMANCHE'S CAREER WITH THEIR OWN MIGHTY

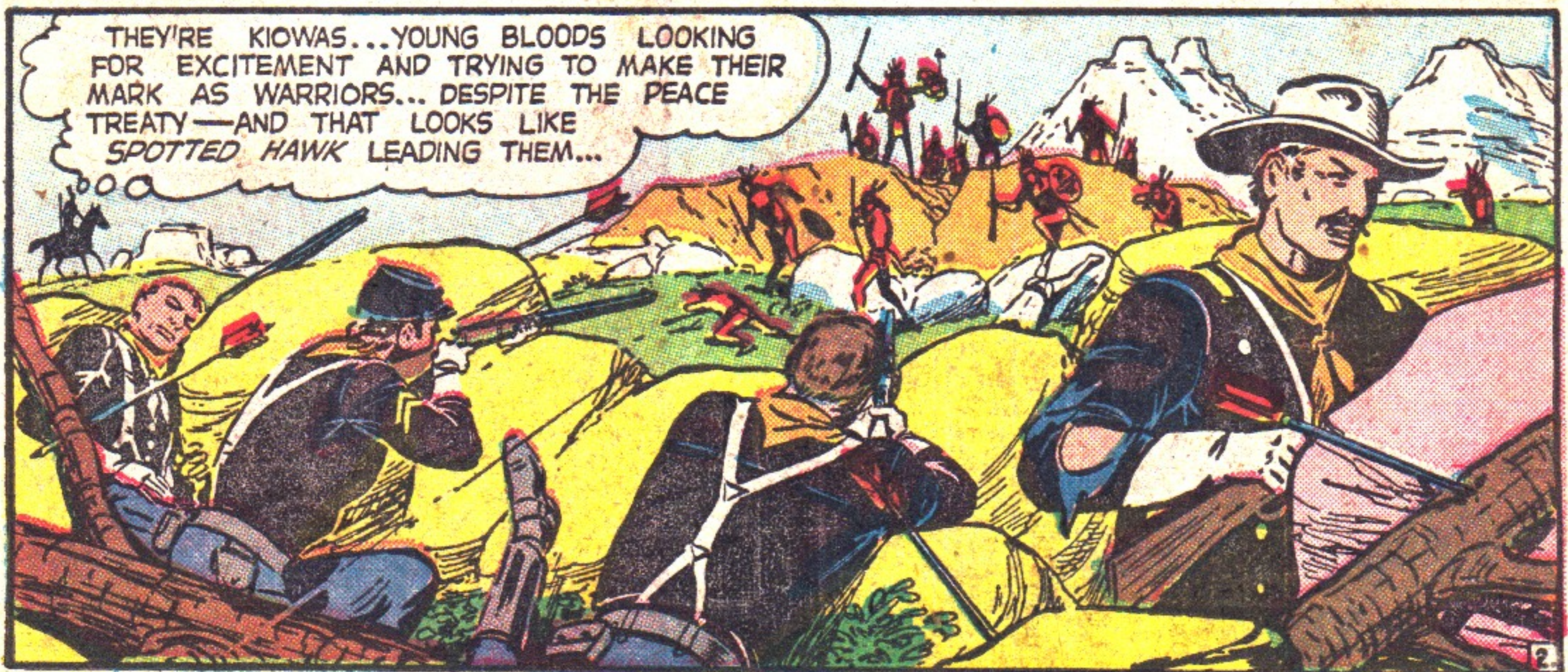
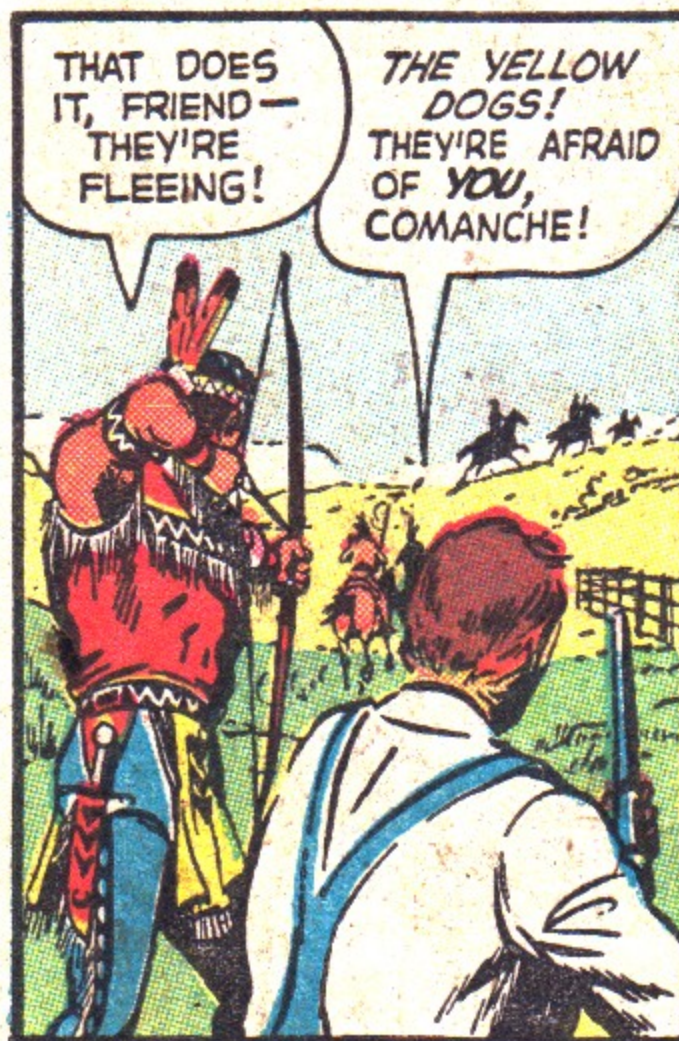
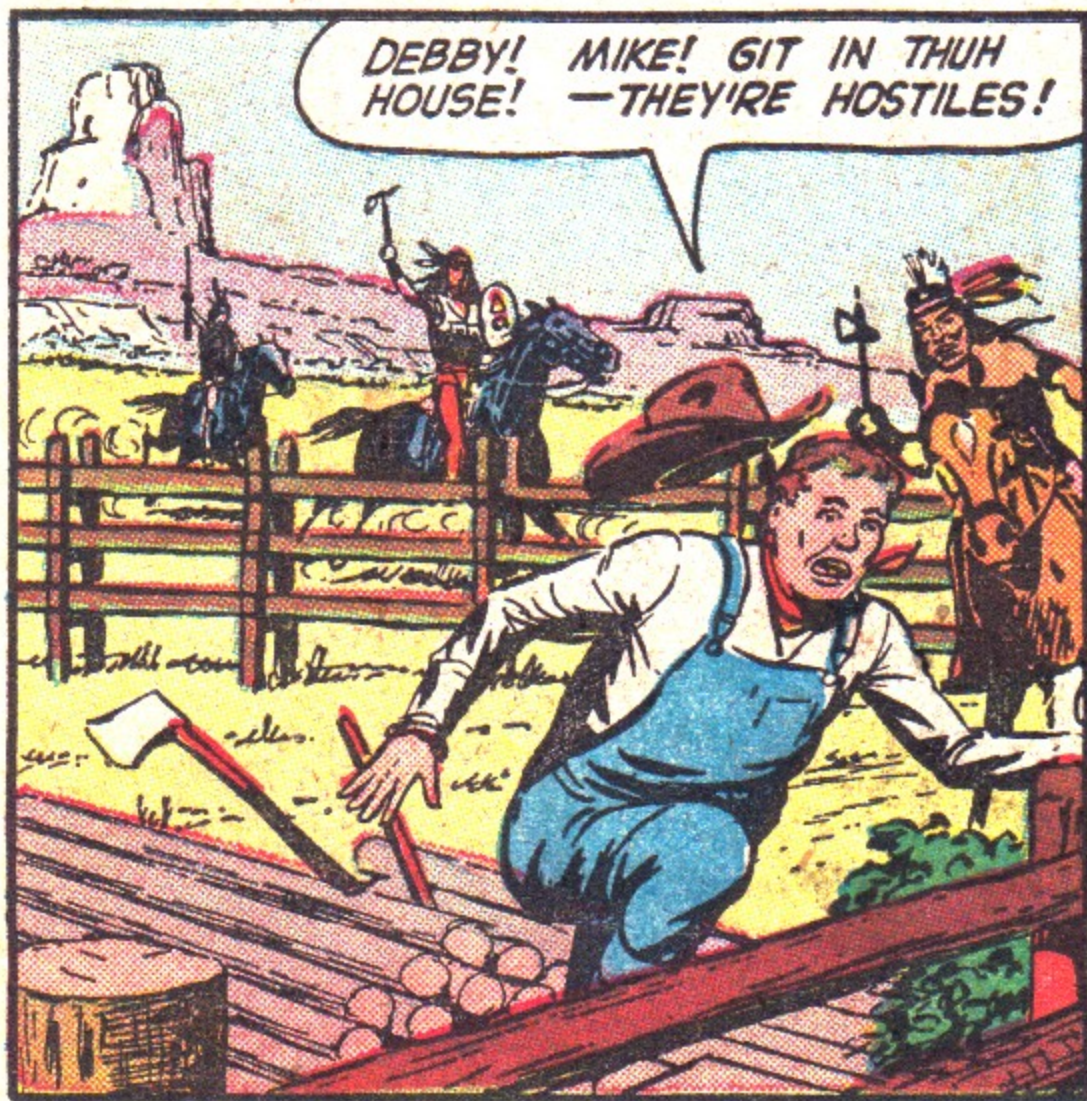
"CHAMPION OF EVIL!"

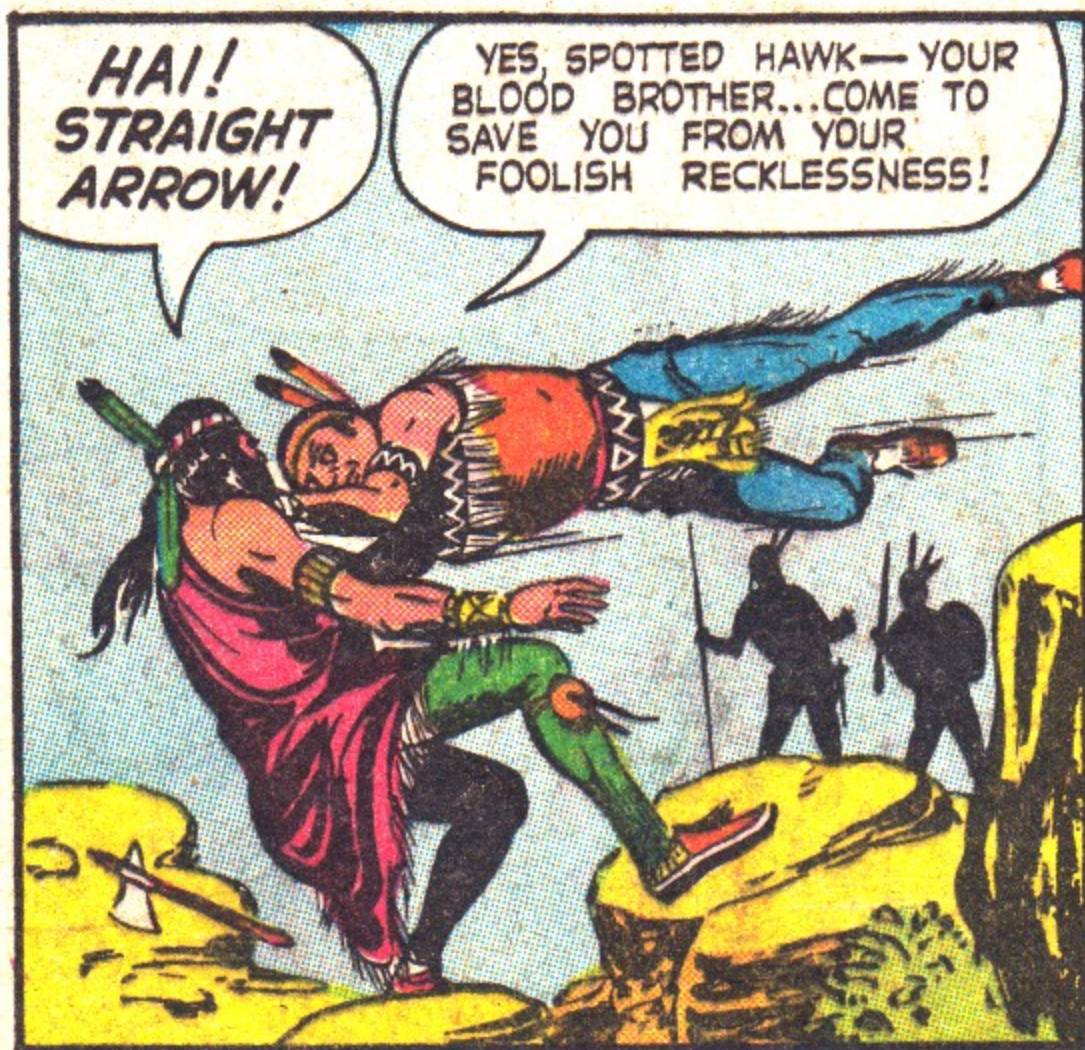


Fred Meagher

THE YARD OF AN OUTLYING HOMESTEAD...







HAI!
STRAIGHT
ARROW!

YES, SPOTTED HAWK—YOUR
BLOOD BROTHER...COME TO
SAVE YOU FROM YOUR
FOOLISH RECKLESSNESS!



MANY TIMES HAVE WE HUNTED TOGETHER,
YOU AND I...WE HAVE EATEN FROM THE
SAME KILL...MINGLED OUR BLOOD... WE
ARE FRIENDS, SPOTTED HAWK—SO I
ASK YOU TO CALL OFF THIS
ATTACK ON THE WHITE
SOLDIERS!



STRAIGHT ARROW SAYS MUCH
MORE, AND AFTER SOME
ARGUMENT, SPOTTED HAWK
GIVES IN...

I DO NOT LIKE
THIS OBEDIENCE TO STRAIGHT
ARROW...!

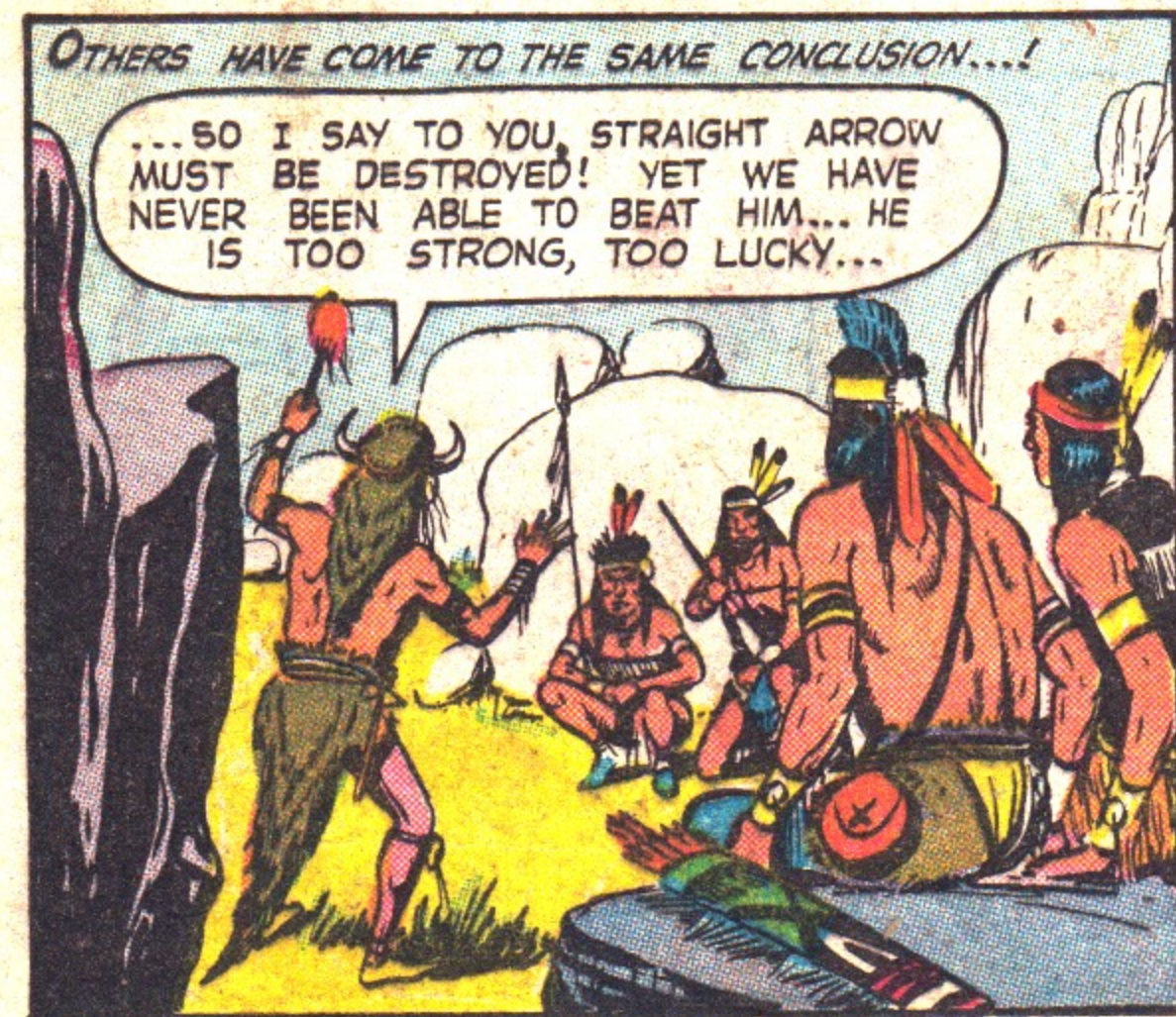


THE NEXT DAY, AT FT. COBB...

THERE ARE TOO MANY BANDS
OF RENEGADES ROAMING LOOSE
THESE DAYS, COLONEL DEEGAN.
I SUGGEST YOU SEND TROOPS
TO ROUND THEM UP BEFORE
THEY DO REAL DAMAGE!



WE REALLY DON'T *NEED* TO,
STRAIGHT ARROW *YOU* ARE A
ONE-MAN PEACE
ARMY...!



OTHERS HAVE COME TO THE SAME CONCLUSION...!

...SO I SAY TO YOU, STRAIGHT ARROW
MUST BE DESTROYED! YET WE HAVE
NEVER BEEN ABLE TO BEAT HIM... HE
IS TOO STRONG, TOO LUCKY...



...WE NEED A *CHAMPION* TO MATCH
HIM! AND I, BITTER ROOT, HAVE
BROUGHT ONE BACK FROM THE BLACK
HILL COUNTRY—THE MIGHTY SIOUX
WARRIOR, *THUNDERCLOUD*!

MEN OF THE PLAINS! FOR ONE HUNDRED PONIES I WILL RID YOU OF STRAIGHT ARROW. I HAVE HEARD ALL ABOUT HIM — AND I, THUNDERCLOUD, WILL OVERCOME HIM! I AM AS GREAT AS HE IS...



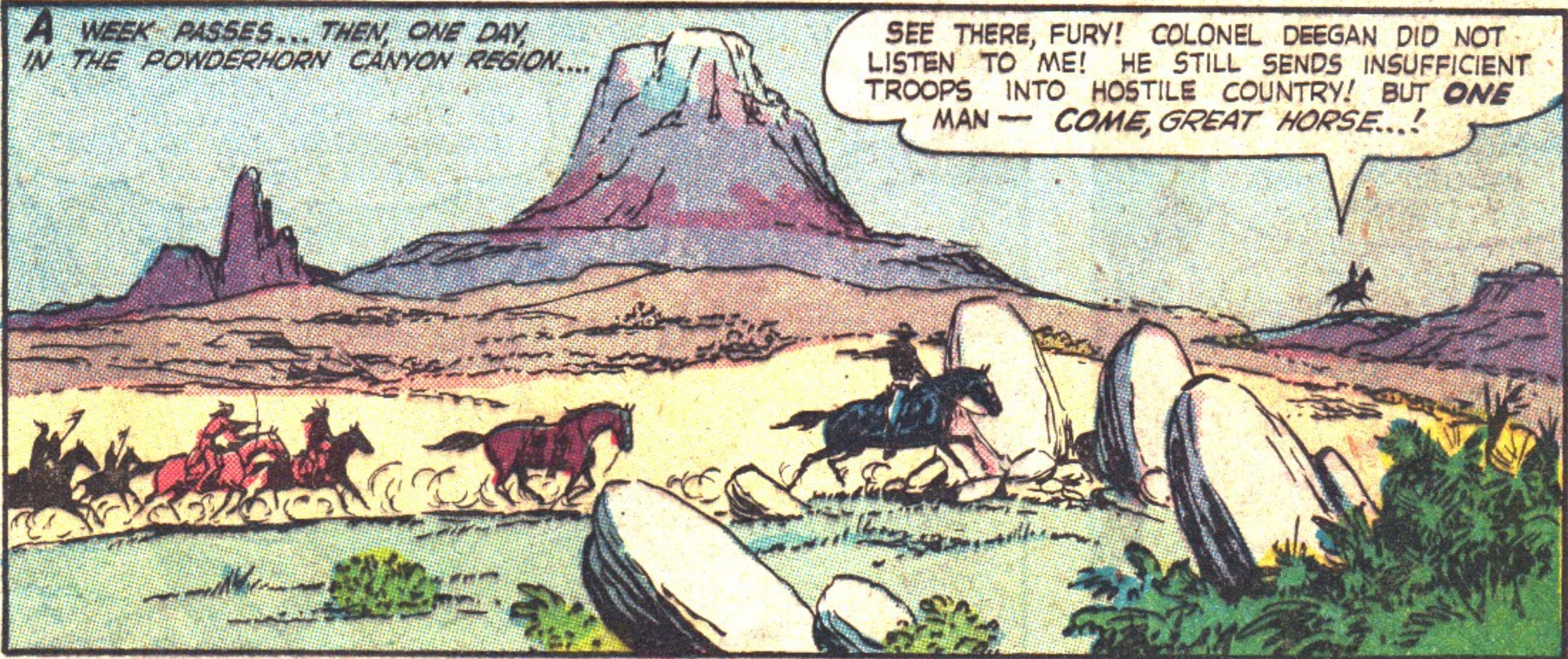
...I AM **STRONGER** THAN HE IS! I CAN OUTFIGHT AND OUTSHOOT HIM!... AND I HAVE A HORSE GREATER THAN HIS FAMED **FURY** — BEHOLD MY MIGHTY STEED, **LIGHTNING!**



HA! HA! NOW WE HAVE OUR CHAMPION! AND TO MAKE THE OUTCOME CERTAIN, I SHALL LEND MY **CLEVERNESS** TO THIS ENTERPRISE LISTEN...!

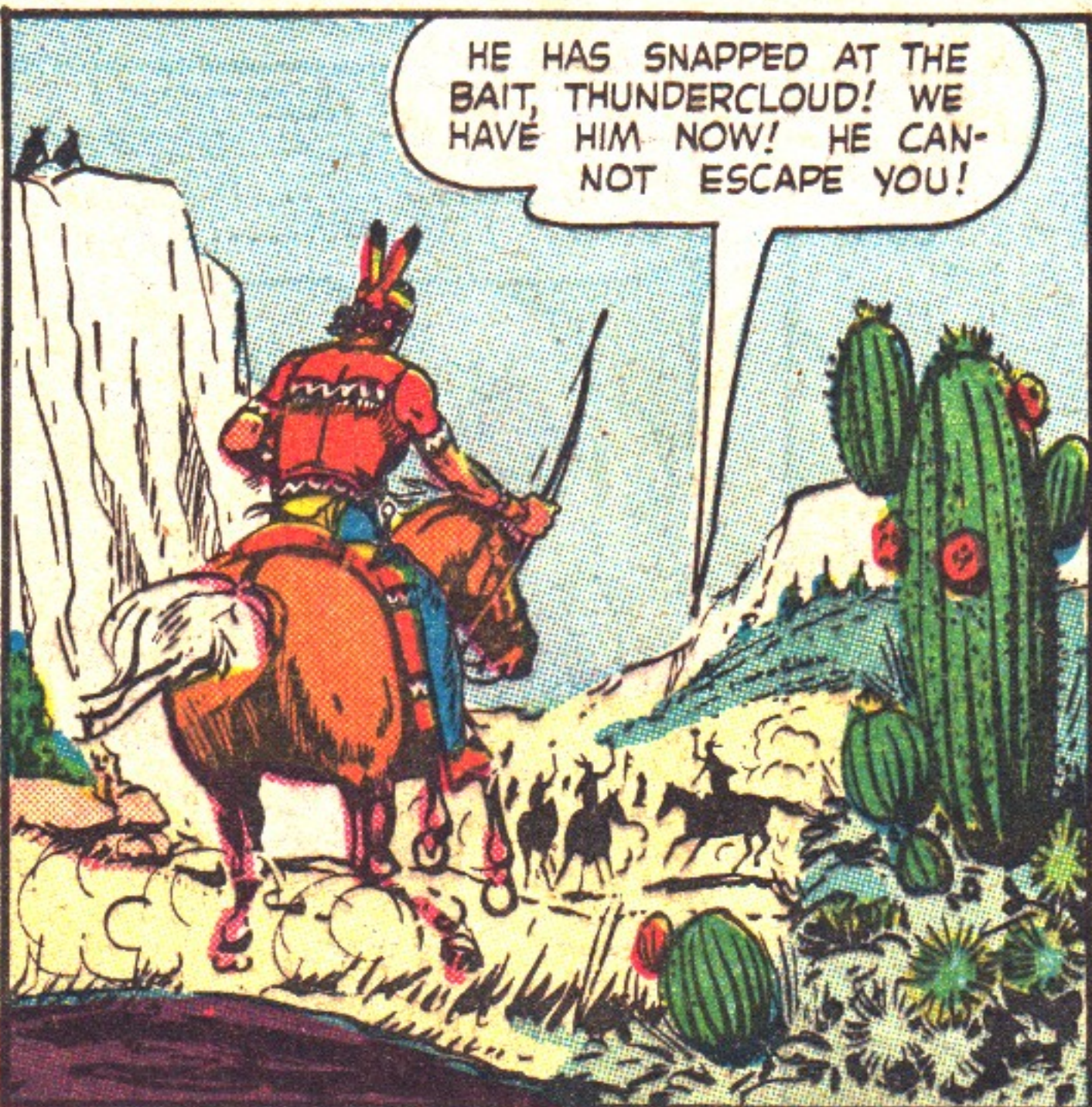


A WEEK PASSES... THEN, ONE DAY, IN THE POWDERHORN CANYON REGION...

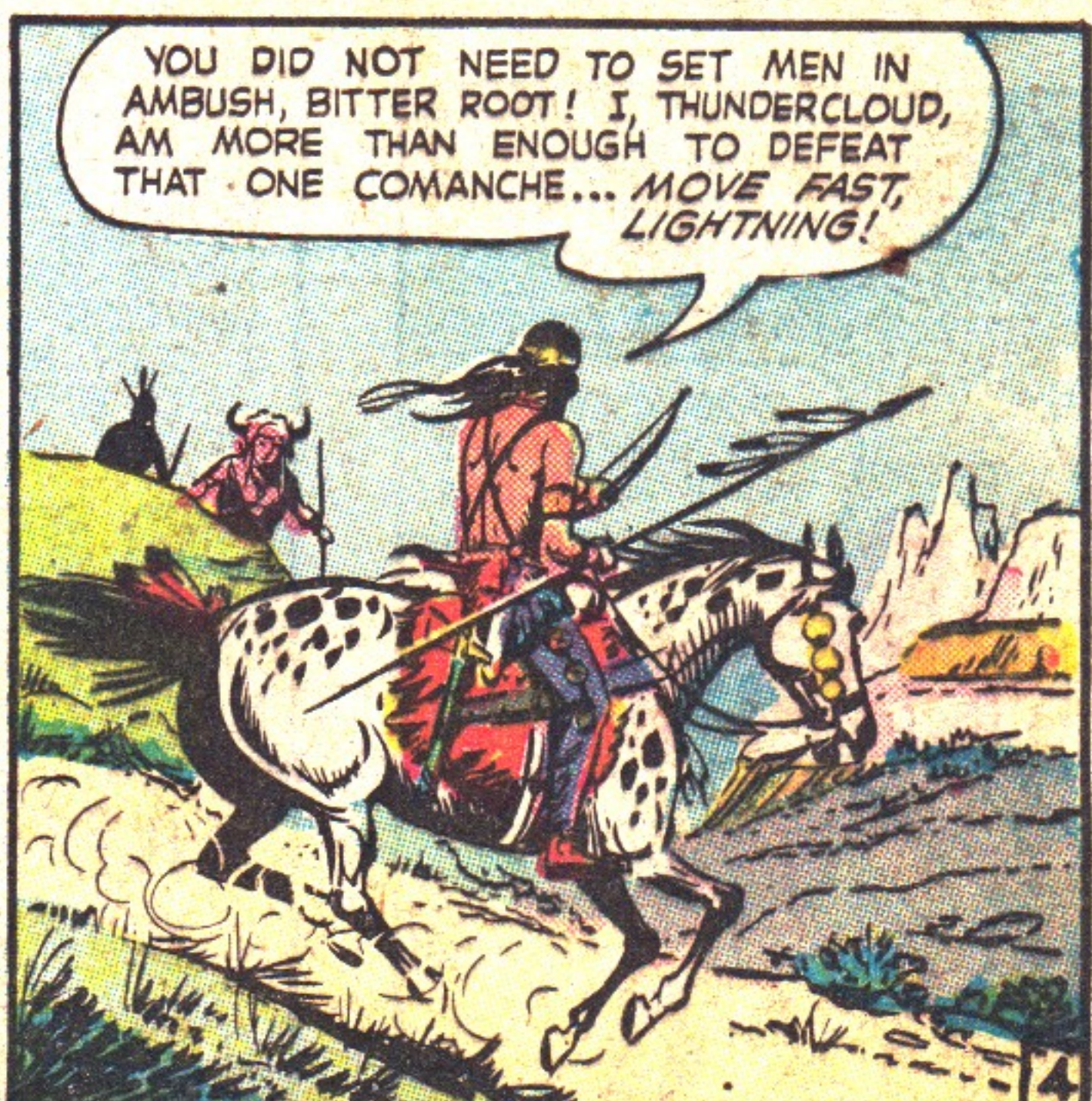


SEE THERE, FURY! COLONEL DEEGAN DID NOT LISTEN TO ME! HE STILL SENDS INSUFFICIENT TROOPS INTO HOSTILE COUNTRY! BUT **ONE** MAN — COME, GREAT HORSE...!

HE HAS SNAPPED AT THE BAIT, THUNDERCLOUD! WE HAVE HIM NOW! HE CANNOT ESCAPE YOU!

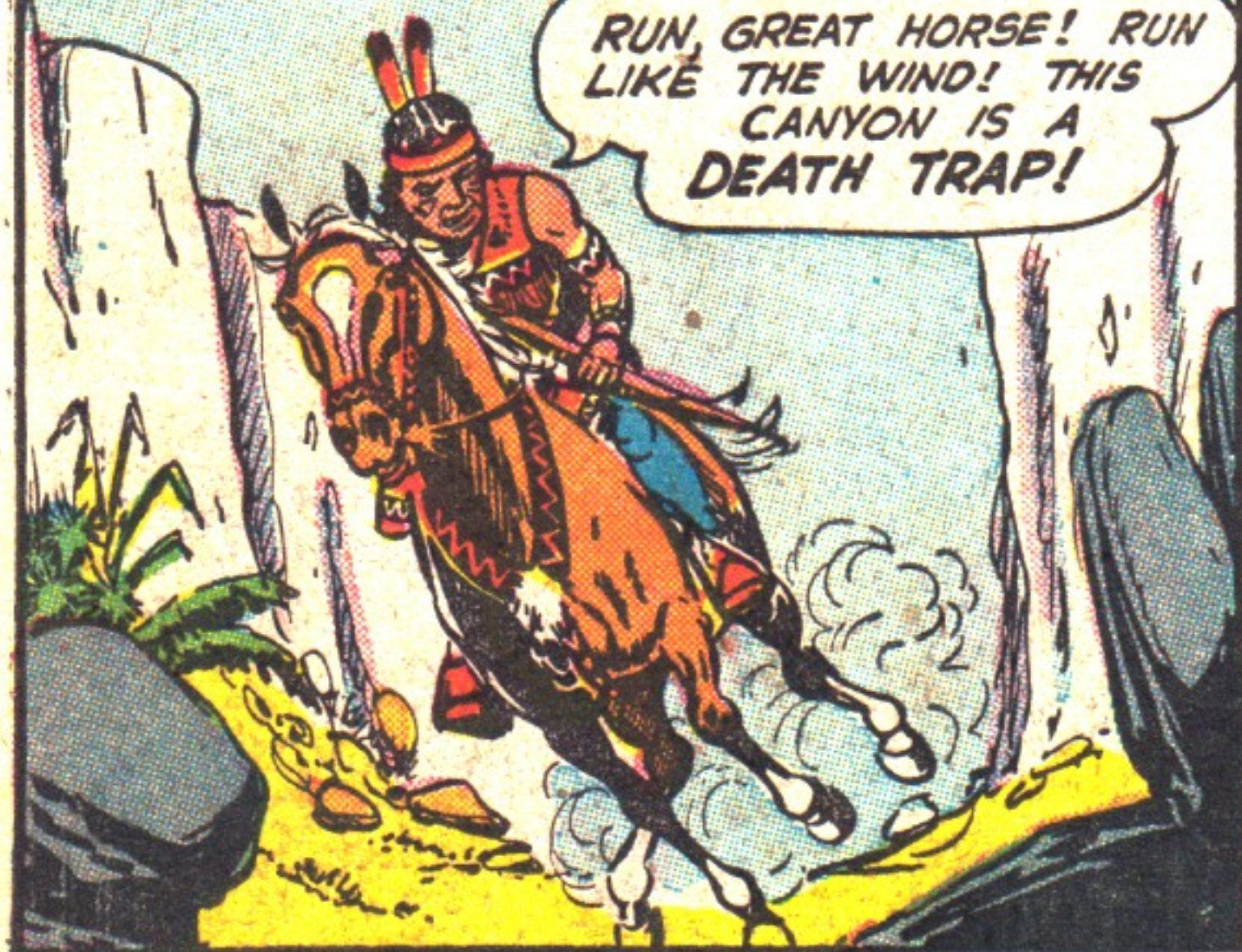


YOU DID NOT NEED TO SET MEN IN AMBUSH, BITTER ROOT! I, THUNDERCLOUD, AM MORE THAN ENOUGH TO DEFEAT THAT ONE COMANCHE... **MOVE FAST, LIGHTNING!**



BUT STRAIGHT ARROW SUDDENLY CUTS SHORT HIS PURSUIT!...WHEELS FURY ABOUT!...RACES BACK OUT OF THE CANYON MOUTH...!

RUN, GREAT HORSE! RUN LIKE THE WIND! THIS CANYON IS A DEATH TRAP!



THEY HAD ME FOOLED, FURY... UNTIL I GOT CLOSE ENOUGH TO SEE THEM CLEARLY—TO SEE THAT THE ONE DRESSED AS A **SOLDIER** RODE LIKE AN **INDIAN** RATHER THAN LIKE A CAVALRYMAN...!

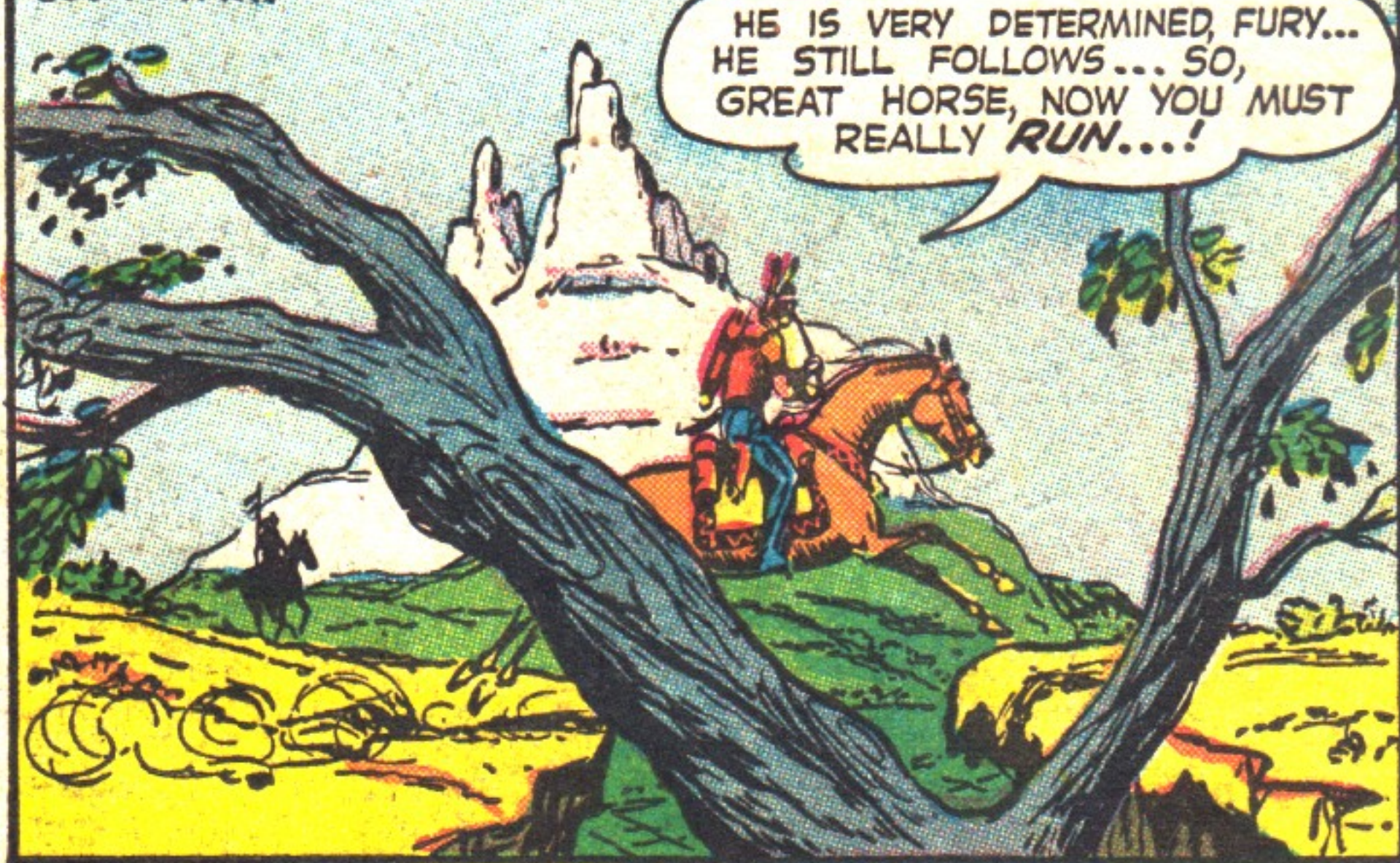


SOMETHING MUST HAVE WARNED HIM!—AND NOW THE GREAT STRAIGHT ARROW FLEES FOR HIS LIFE!... BUT **YOU** WILL EASILY CATCH THAT VAUNTED PALOMINO, MY LIGHTNING...!



MILE AFTER MILE, THE GRUELING CHASE CONTINUES...ACROSS THE BURNING PLAINS AND UP INTO THE CRAGGY HIGH COUNTRY....

HE IS VERY DETERMINED, FURY... HE STILL FOLLOWS... SO, GREAT HORSE, NOW YOU MUST REALLY **RUN**...!



FURY'S TREMENDOUS MUSCLES POUR OUT EXTRA POWER!... AND SOON THE PALOMINO BEGINS TO INCREASE THE DISTANCE BETWEEN HIMSELF AND THE PURSUING LIGHTNING.

THIS CANNOT BE! THEY DRAW AWAY FROM US...!



WE ARE BEGINNING TO LOSE HIM, FURY...BUT I WONDER WHO HE IS? HE IS NEW TO THESE PARTS—I WOULD NEVER FORGET A BIG WARRIOR LIKE THAT HAD I SEEN HIM BEFORE!... AND WHY DOES HE CHASE ME...?



TOO MANY QUESTIONS! I MUST HAVE **ANSWERS**! PULL UP, FURY! WE'LL WAIT FOR HIM...!



WHEN FURY STOPS, THUNDERCLOUD SPURS HIS MOUNT ON, AND SOON —!

WHY HE STOPPED, I DO NOT KNOW — BUT NOW I AM WITHIN RANGE... SO —!



THE SIOUX'S SUDDEN ATTACK IS SO SWIFT THAT STRAIGHT ARROW BARELY HAS TIME TO DROP FROM FURY TO ESCAPE THE SHAFT...!

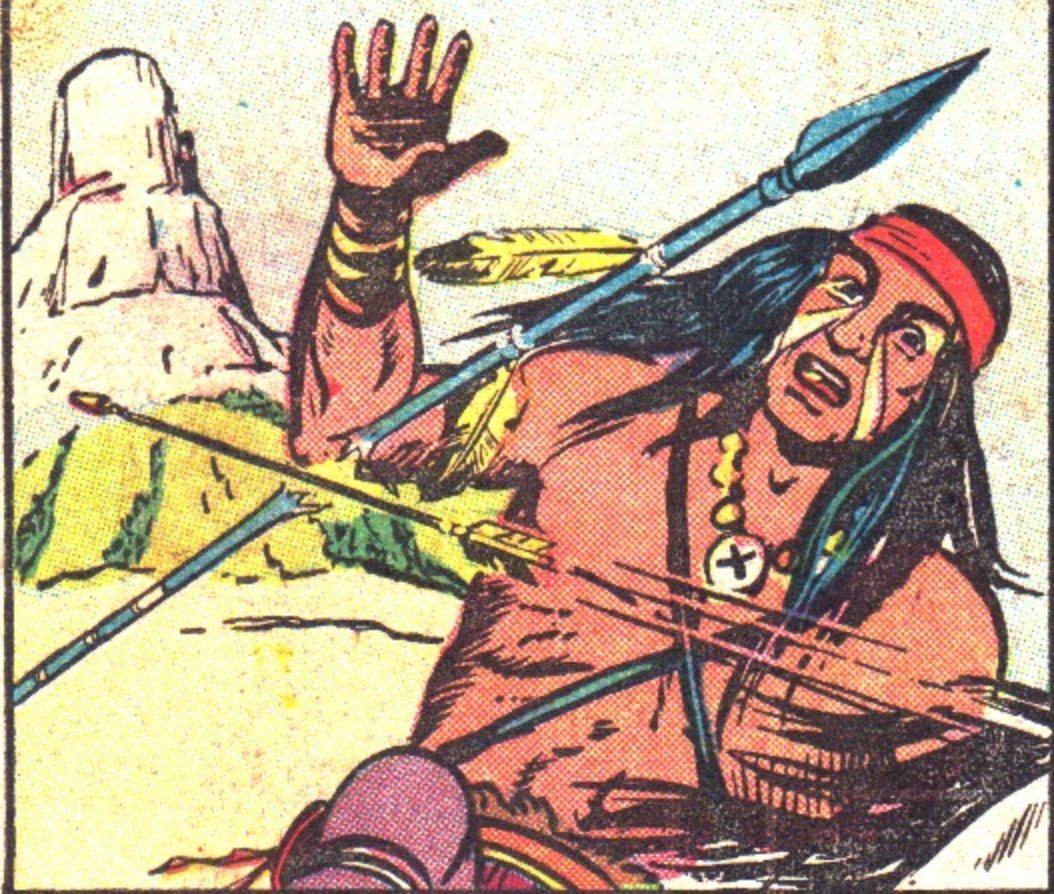
HAI! TOO CLOSE! THAT BIG MAN IS A MARKSMAN — AND NO FRIEND OF MINE EITHER...!



AND NOW THUNDERCLOUD CHARGES, HIS LANCE POISED FOR THE KILL —!

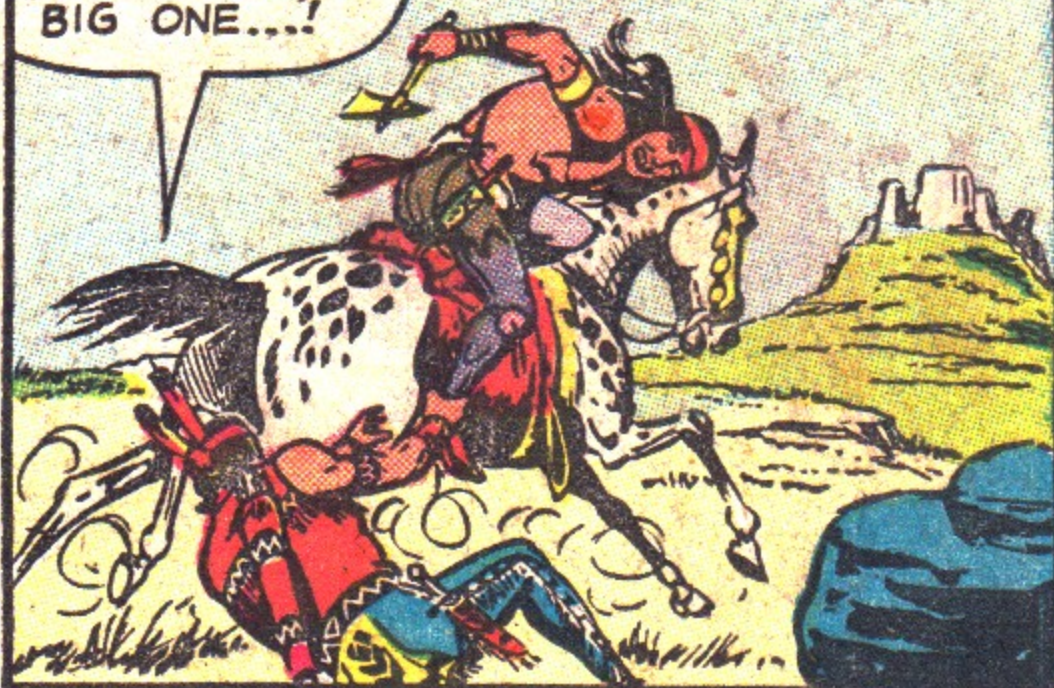


BUT A GOLDEN ARROW STREAKS THROUGH THE AIR — AND RIPS AWAY THE LANCE —!

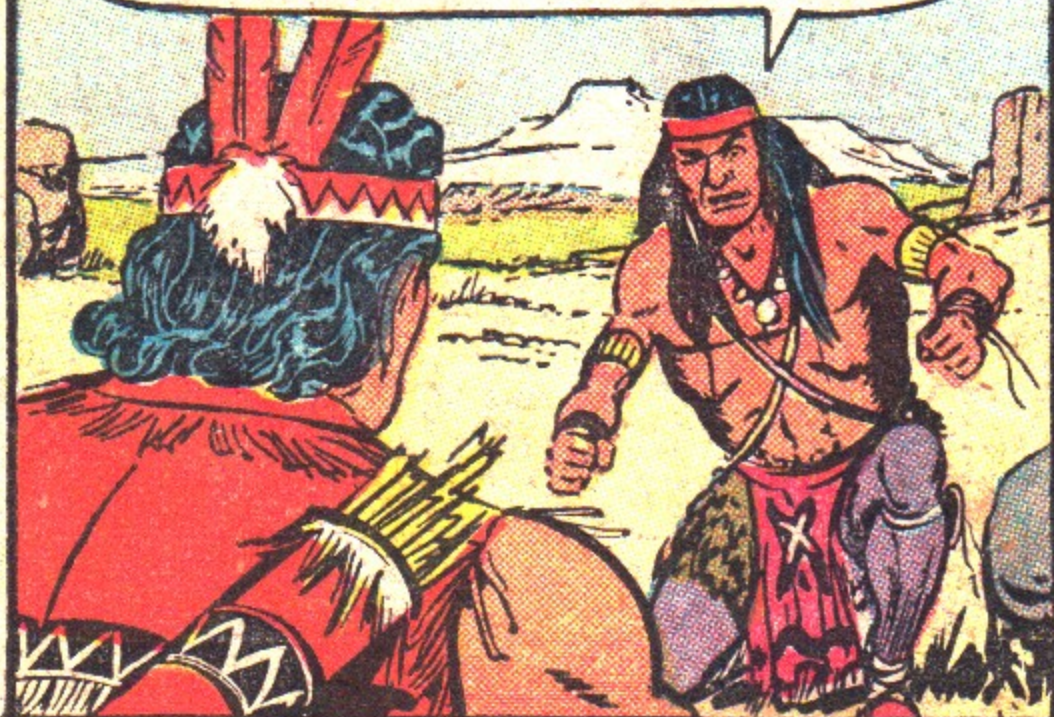


THEN THUNDERCLOUD TRIES TO RUN DOWN STRAIGHT ARROW... BUT AT THE LAST POSSIBLE MOMENT, THE COMANCHE STEPS ASIDE, AND —

YOU BEGIN TO ANNOY ME, BIG ONE...!



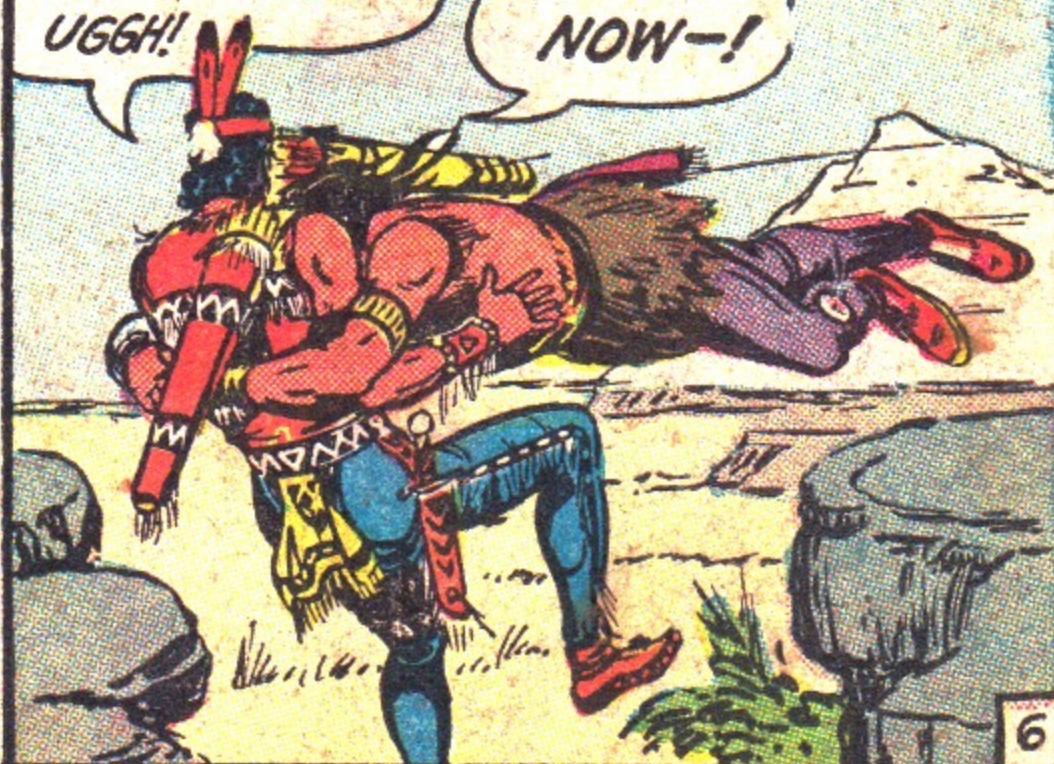
YOUR HORSE OUTRAN MINE, COMANCHE... YOUR ARROW WAS BETTER AIMED THAN MY ARROW... BUT NOW WE SHALL MATCH OUR **STRENGTH**...!



THUNDERCLOUD'S LEAP IS QUICK! AND HIS GRIP IS LIKE THAT OF AN ANGRY GRIZZLY...!

YOU TALK BIG — UGGH!

NOW —!





THE END



MEN! WOMEN! BOYS! GIRLS!

YOURS **FOR ONLY** **1¢**

THIS STUNNING ASSORTMENT OF 21 ALL-OCCASION GREETING CARDS! YOU WON'T BE ASKED TO RETURN IT!

Just to prove how easily a few spare hours CAN EARN YOU \$50 CASH!

Never before a "get-acquainted" offer to match this! We want to prove you'll find it easy as pie to take orders for exquisitely-designed ALL-OCCASION CARDS. And also show how quickly you can make \$50.00 in cash profit — and even more — just by spending a few hours now and then taking orders from your friends, neighbors and others. So here's the astonishing offer we're making:

Fill out and mail the coupon below. We'll promptly send you this beautiful new box of All-Occasion Cards as illustrated. Yes, **JUST ONE SINGLE PENNY** is all you pay for 21 beautiful cards and envelopes that would usually retail at \$2 to \$3 if bought separately.

ONLY ONE TO A FAMILY! LIMITED OFFER!

This special offer is made to men, women, boys and girls for one reason: to let you see for yourself how easy it is to make lots of extra spending money with this wonderful selling plan. So our offer is strictly limited, and includes additional Greeting Card Assortments ON APPROVAL, together with complete MONEY-MAKING PLAN and FREE Personalized Imprint Samples. But you must hurry — this offer may not be repeated.

ARTISTIC CARD CO., INC.

839 Way Street, Elmira, New York

In Canada, write 103 Simcoe St., Toronto 1, Ontario

PASTE THIS COUPON ON POSTCARD MAIL TODAY!

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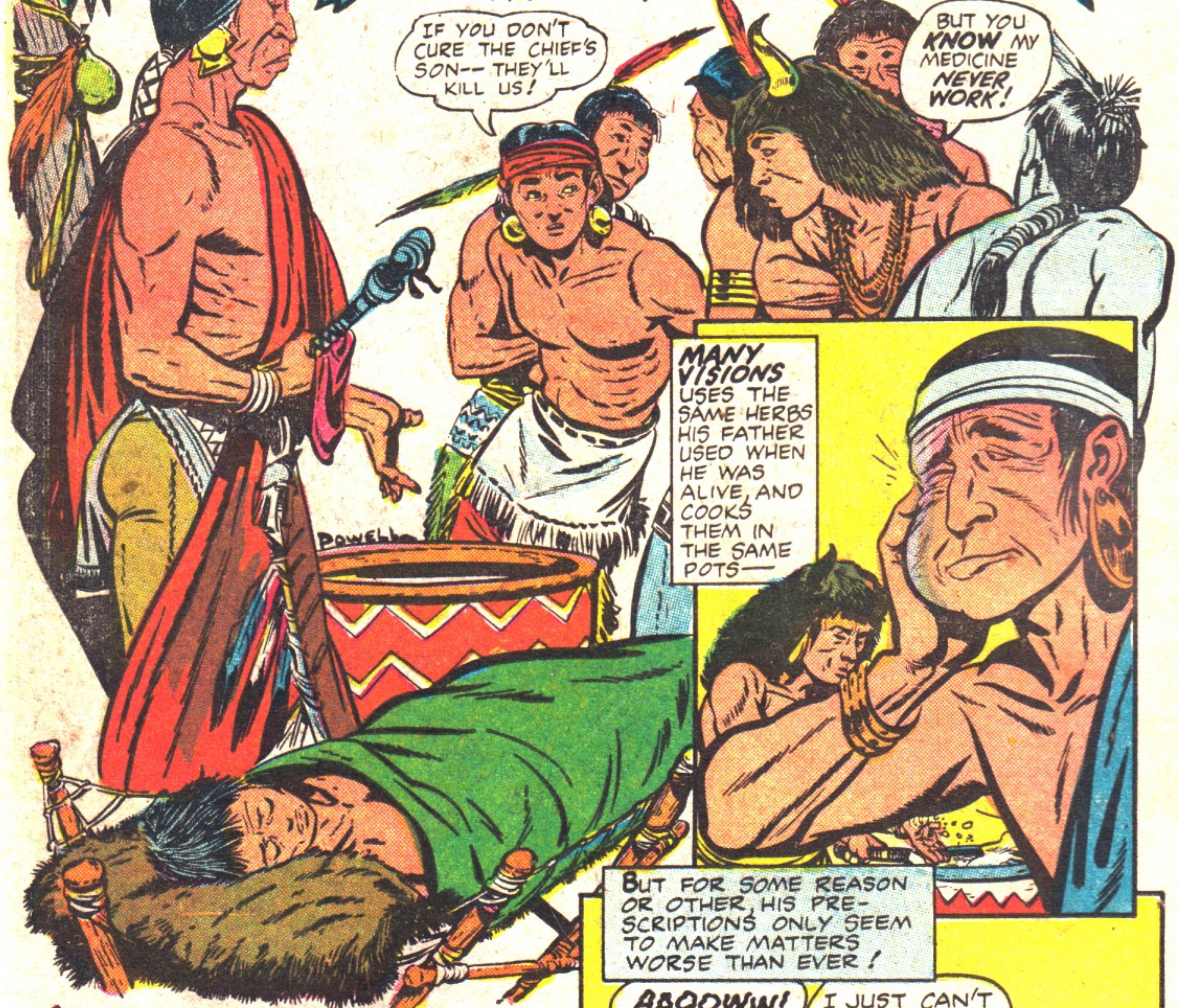
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RED HAWK



IF YOU DON'T CURE THE CHIEF'S SON-- THEY'LL KILL US!

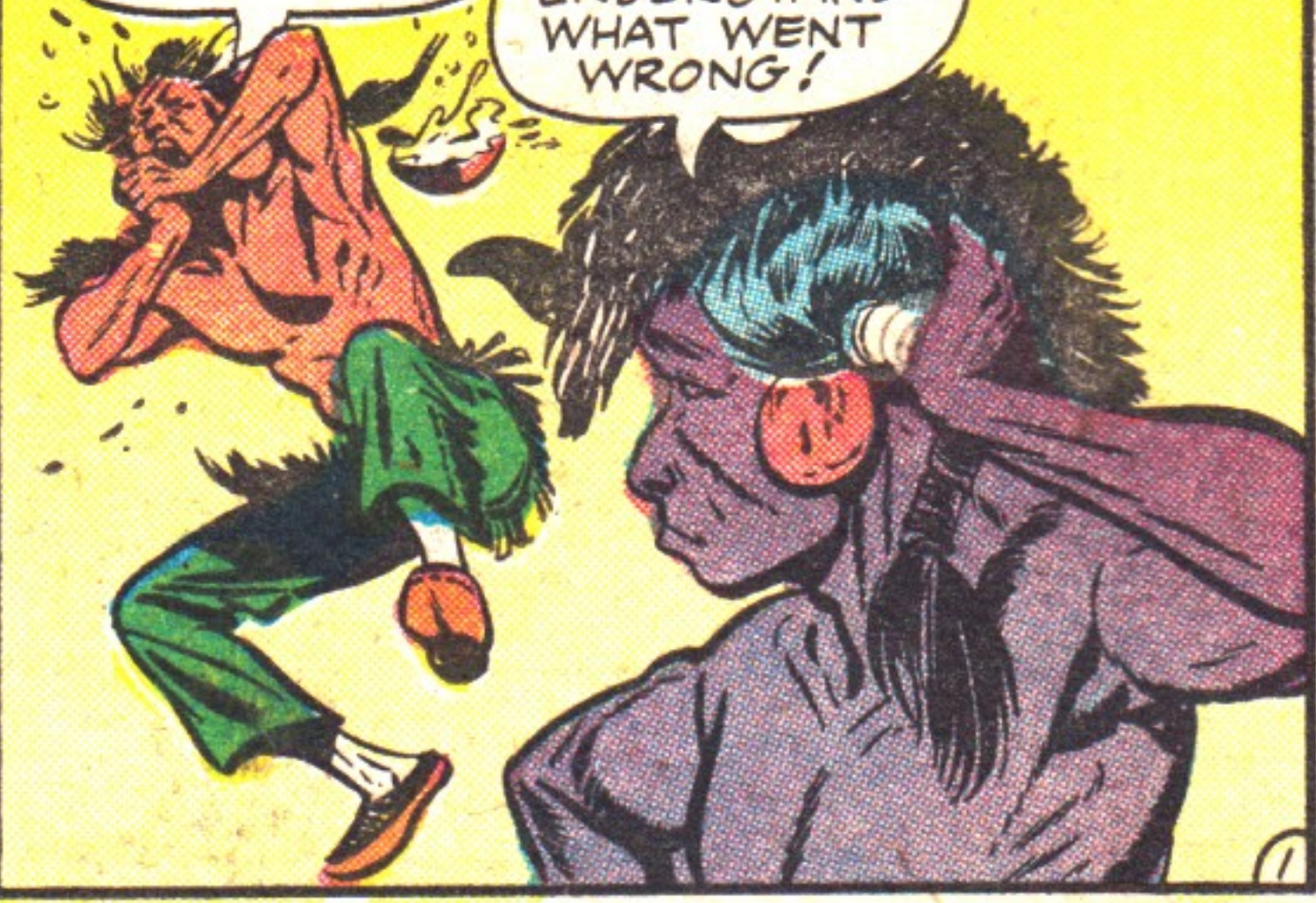
BUT YOU KNOW MY MEDICINE NEVER WORK!

MANY VISIONS USES THE SAME HERBS HIS FATHER USED WHEN HE WAS ALIVE, AND COOKS THEM IN THE SAME POTS—

BUT FOR SOME REASON OR OTHER, HIS PRESCRIPTIONS ONLY SEEM TO MAKE MATTERS WORSE THAN EVER!

AAOOWW!

I JUST CAN'T UNDERSTAND WHAT WENT WRONG!



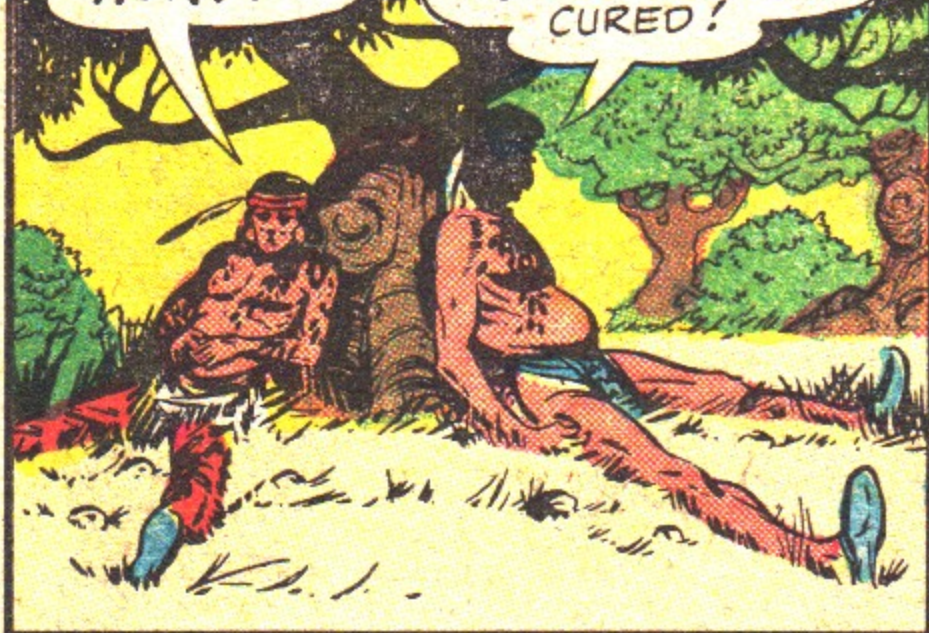
HIS FATHER WAS A GREAT AND FAMOUS MEDICINE MAN, BUT YOUNG **MANY VISIONS** IS A RANK FAILURE WHEN IT COMES TO CURING ANYONE! NO MATTER WHAT HE DOES, HIS PATIENTS ALWAYS GET WORSE, INSTEAD OF BETTER! AND THUS, WHEN CROW CHIEF, FIGHTING WOLF, GIVES **RED HAWK** AND **MANY VISIONS** THEIR CHANCE TO CURE HIS SICK SON OR DIE, THEY KNOW THAT THEY CANNOT LOOK FOR HELP FROM THE —

BAD MEDICINE MAN!!

NOT FAR AWAY, IN A GROVE OF WILD APPLE TREES—

WHOOWW! I'M FULL! SO FULL I'M STARTING TO HURT!

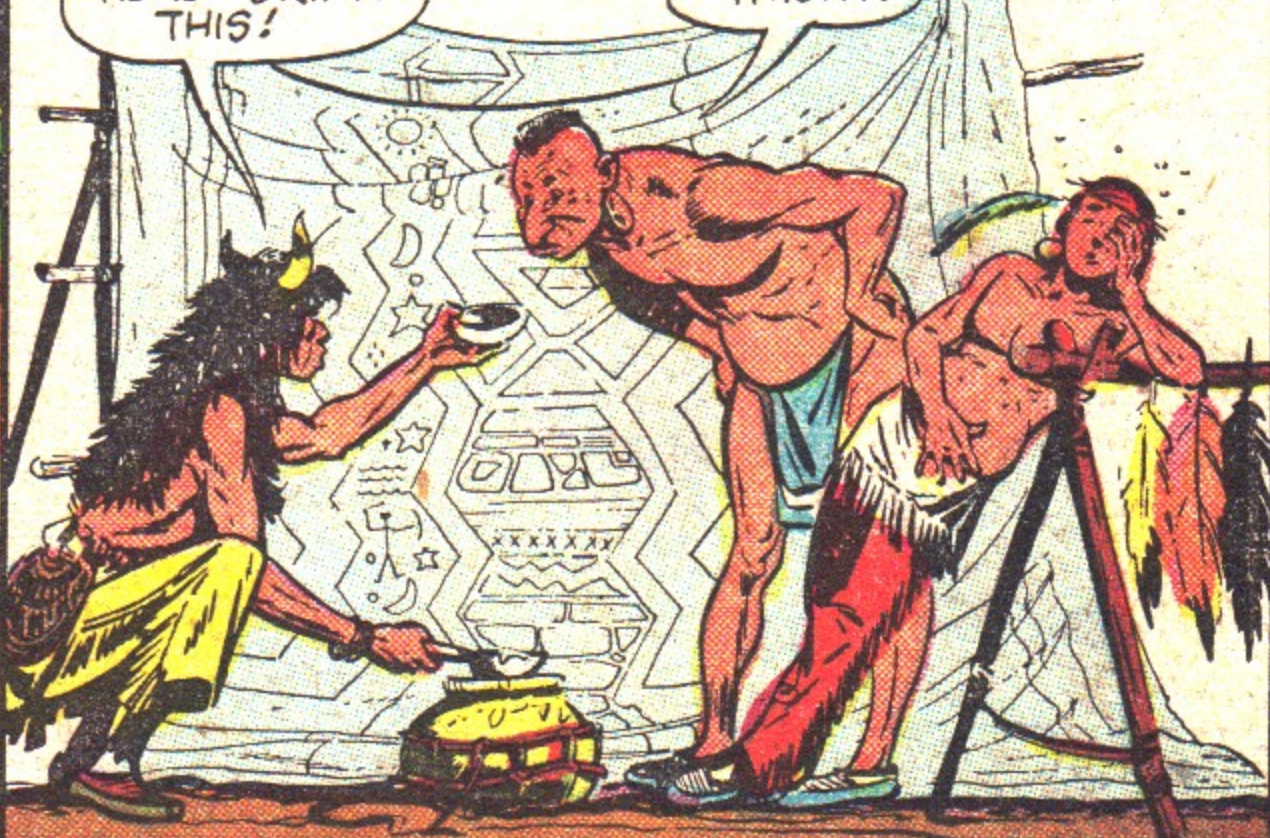
I HURT RIGHT NOW! LET'S GO FIND MANY VISIONS AND GET CURED!



A LITTLE LATER—

HERE—DRINK THIS!

HUH! YOU'VE NEVER CURED MY STOMACH ACHES YET. I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THIS....



OWWW! WHAT WAS IN THAT?

I TOLD YOU SO! I TOLD YOU SO! OWWW!



YOU COME WITH ME AND SEE LAZY DOG. HE ISN'T AS GOOD A MEDICINE MAN AS STANDING HORSE, WHO WAS MANY VISIONS' FAMOUS FATHER, BUT HE'S A LOT BETTER THAN YOUNG MANY VISIONS!

YES, DEAR!

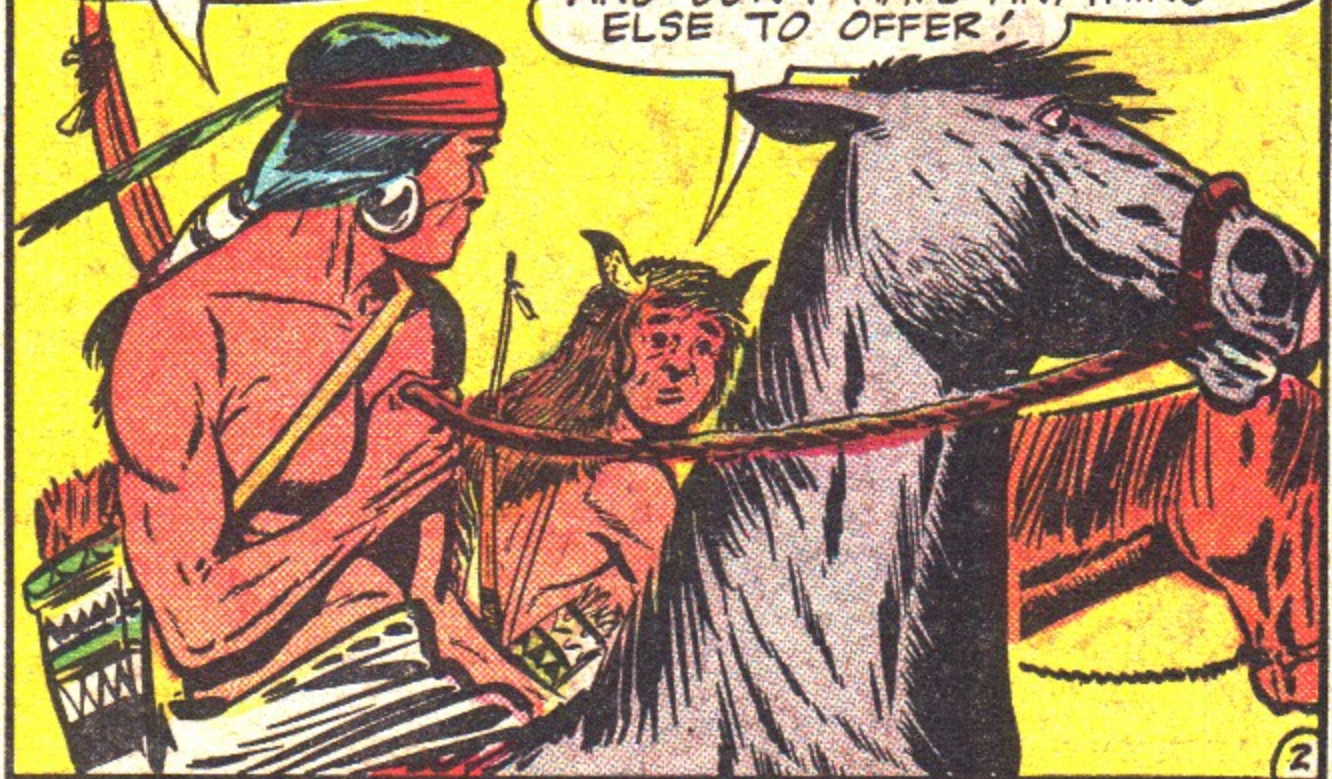


NEXT MORNING...

I CAN'T UNDERSTAND IT AT ALL! MY FATHER CURED EVERYBODY OF EVERY AILMENT THEY HAD. HE TAUGHT ME ALL HIS REMEDIES BEFORE HE DIED. BUT FOR ME, THEY DON'T WORK!

CHEER UP, MANY VISIONS. MAYBE YOU JUST WEREN'T CUT OUT TO BE A MEDICINE MAN!

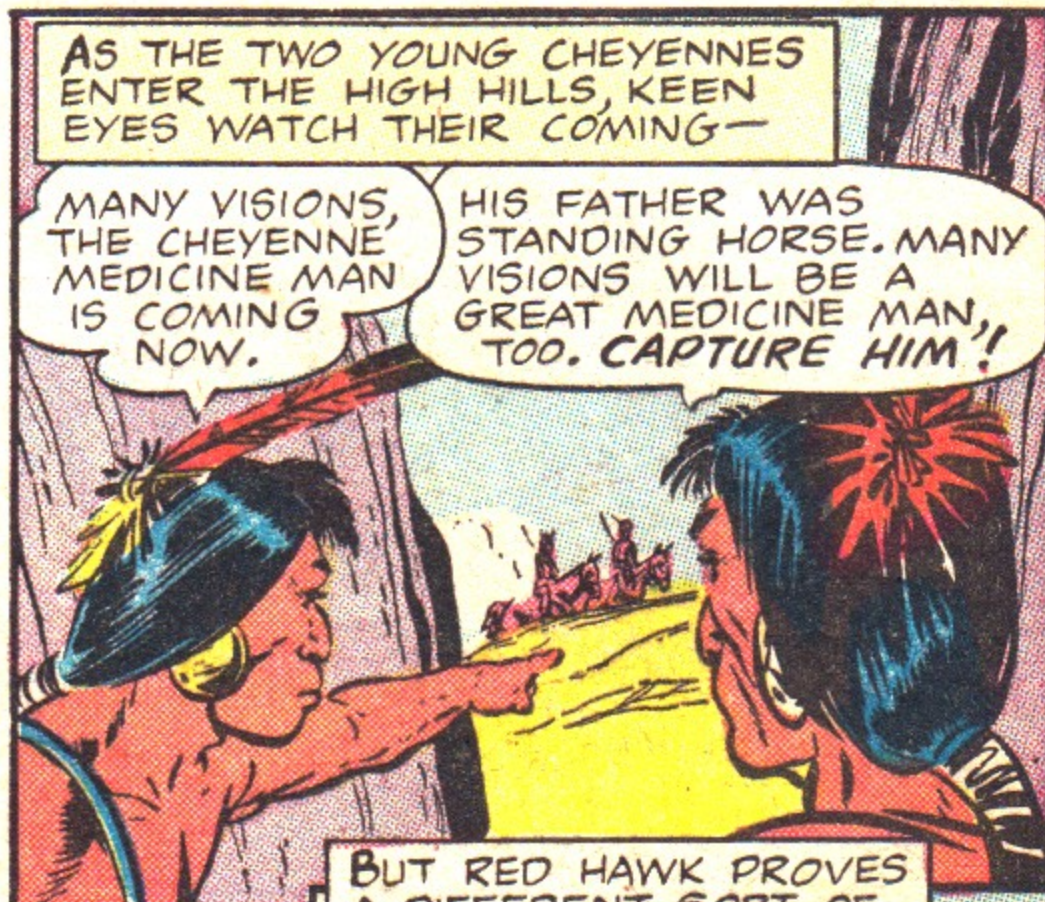
I'D BETTER BE CUT OUT TO BE A GOOD HUNTER! I DON'T HAVE ANY MORE FOOD AND NOBODY'LL TRADE WITH ME BECAUSE I CAN'T CURE THEM AND DON'T HAVE ANYTHING ELSE TO OFFER!





THERE'S GOOD HUNTING IN THE MOUNTAINS THESE DAYS. LET'S GO THERE.

WHATEVER YOU SAY! I DON'T EVEN KNOW HOW TO FIND A GAME ANIMAL. I'M JUST ABOUT **USELESS**, I GUESS!



AS THE TWO YOUNG CHEYENNES ENTER THE HIGH HILLS, KEEN EYES WATCH THEIR COMING—

MANY VISIONS, THE CHEYENNE MEDICINE MAN IS COMING NOW.

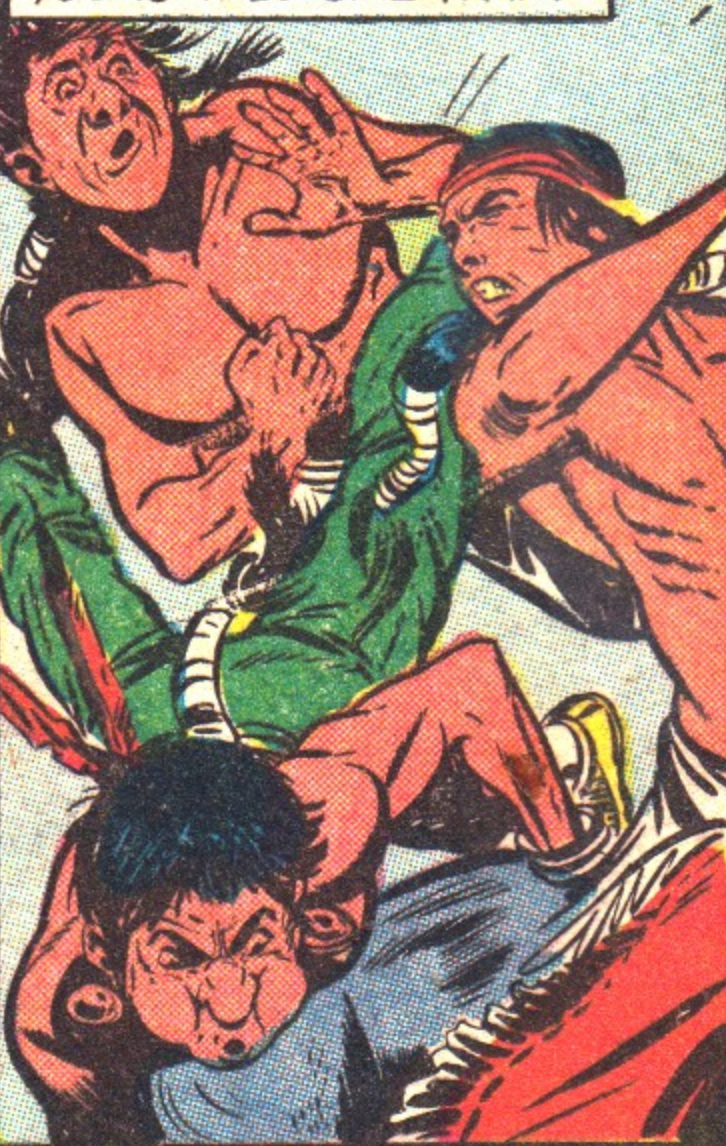
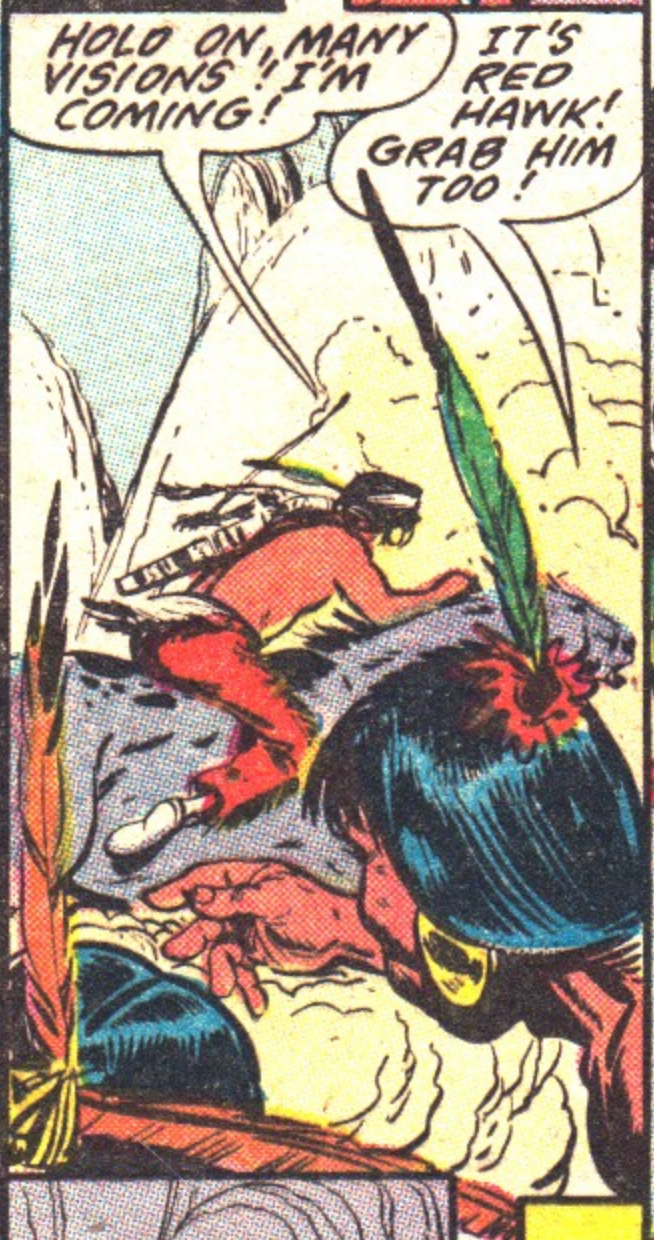
HIS FATHER WAS STANDING HORSE. MANY VISIONS WILL BE A GREAT MEDICINE MAN, TOO. **CAPTURE HIM!**



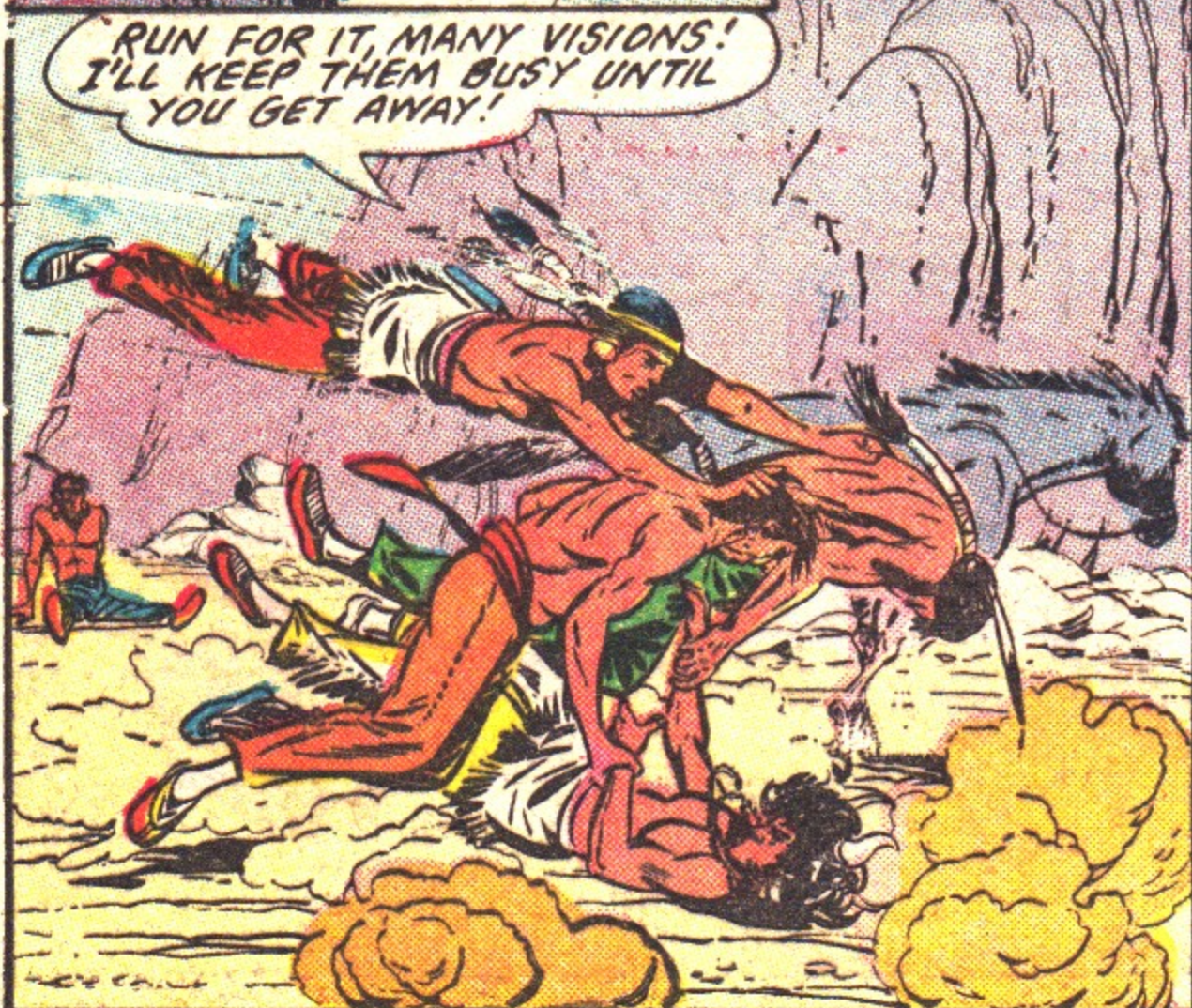
HOLD ON, MANY VISIONS! I'M COMING!

IT'S RED HAWK! GRAB HIM TOO!

BUT RED HAWK PROVES A DIFFERENT SORT OF CUSTOMER THAN THE YOUNG MEDICINE MAN!

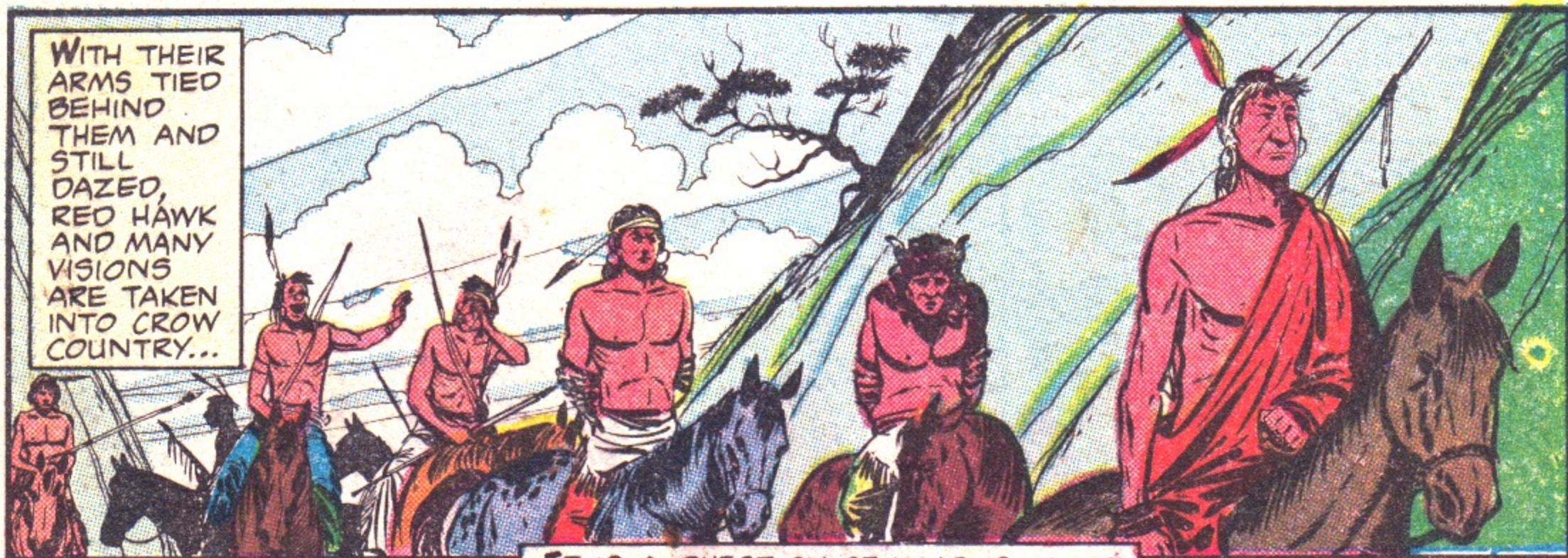


'RUN FOR IT, MANY VISIONS! I'LL KEEP THEM BUSY UNTIL YOU GET AWAY!'



BUT A THROWN SPEAR—HURTLED BUTT FIRST—KNOCKS RED HAWK FLYING!





WITH THEIR ARMS TIED BEHIND THEM AND STILL DAZED, RED HAWK AND MANY VISIONS ARE TAKEN INTO CROW COUNTRY...

IT IS A QUESTION OF WHO IS MORE HORRIFIED, RED HAWK OR MANY VISIONS WHEN THEY FINALLY LEARN, IN THE CHIEF'S TEPEE, THE REASON FOR THEIR CAPTURE!



THERE IS PEACE BETWEEN THE CHEYENNES AND THE CROWS. WHAT DO THEY WANT WITH US?

WHO CAN TELL WHAT A CRAZY CROW WANTS, EVER? LET'S WAIT AND SEE!



CURE MY SON AND GO FREE, MANY VISIONS! REFUSE TO CURE HIM, AND YOU AND RED HAWK DIE!



I-I CAN'T DO IT! MY MEDICINE IS ALL BAD! IT NEVER WORKS!

YOU'VE GOT TO DO IT! WE CAN'T BE ANY DEADDER THAN WHITE CLOUD WILL KILL US IF YOU FAIL—SO GIVE IT A TRY!

UNDER RED HAWK'S ENCOURAGEMENT AND PERSUASION, MANY VISIONS CONSENTS TO TRY, AND GOES INTO THE FIELDS FOR HIS HERBS—

BE SURE TO GET ALL YOU NEED. WE DON'T WANT TO FAIL BECAUSE YOU NEED **MORE** MEDICINE THAN YOU HAVE!

I'LL GET ENOUGH, NEVER FEAR!



ALL YOU'VE GOT TO BE AFRAID OF IS, THAT IT DOESN'T WORK. I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHY I'M TRYING THIS. MY MEDICINE NEVER WORKED BEFORE.

WHY SHOULD IT WORK NOW ALL OF A SUDDEN?

BECAUSE WE DON'T WANT THE CROWS TO KILL US, THAT'S WHY! DON'T OVERLOOK A THING!

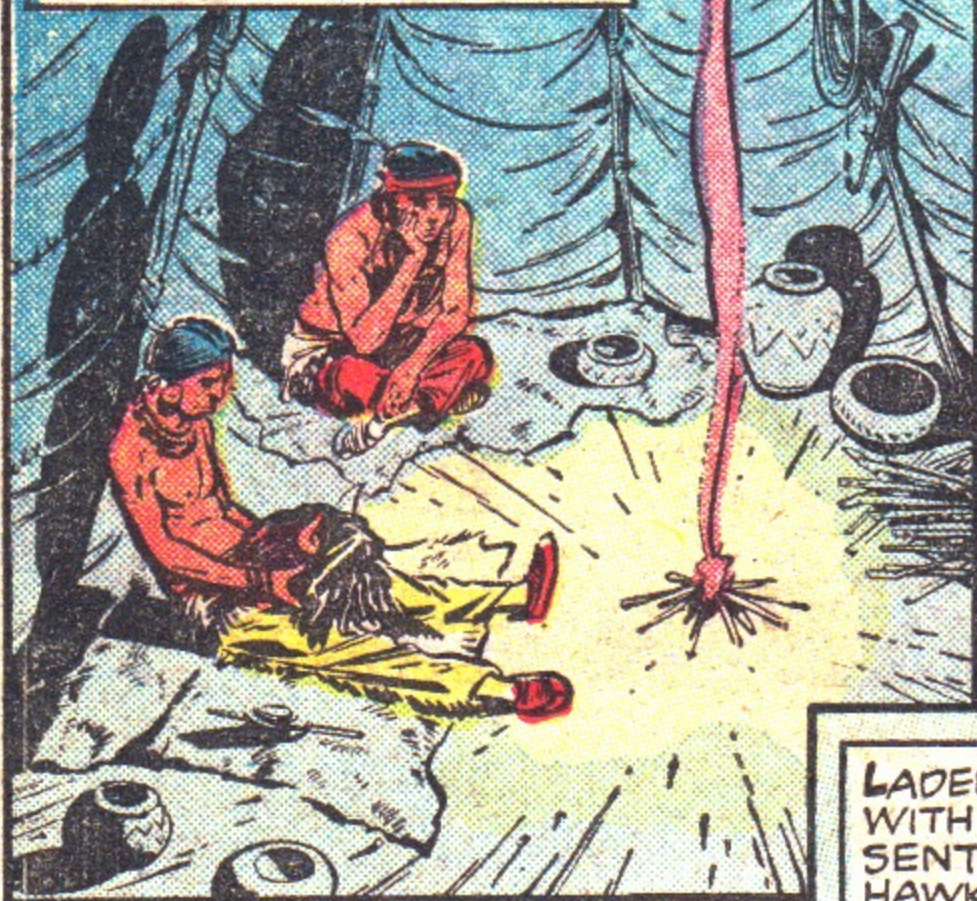


AS THE SETTING SUN FALLS BEHIND THE HILLS, MANY VISIONS TENDERLY FEEDS THE MEDICINE TO THE SICK BOY—

I HOPE IT WORKS!
I HOPE IT WORKS!



ALL THAT LONG NIGHT, RED HAWK AND MANY VISIONS SIT SLUMPED DEJECTEDLY, PRISONERS IN THEIR TEPEE...



GO NOW! IF THE BOY LIVES, I WILL SEND WORD!

I SURE HOPE WE HEAR FROM YOU—
REAL SOON!



AT LEAST A DOZEN TIMES, RED HAWK WHISPERS TO THE CROW GUARD—

ANY WORD FROM THE CHIEF?

NO WORD!



AND THEN, AS THE RISING SUN BRINGS A NEW DAY TO THE PRAIRIE LANDS—

FATHER, IS THAT YOU?

MY SON! THE FEVER IS GONE! YOUR EYES ARE CLEAR! YOU KNOW ME! HAI! THE MAGIC OF STANDING HORSE LIVES ON WITH HIS SON. I SHALL REWARD HIM WELL!



LADEN DOWN WITH PRESENTS, RED HAWK AND MANY VISIONS ARE CHEERED ON THEIR WAY BY THE GRATEFUL CROWS—

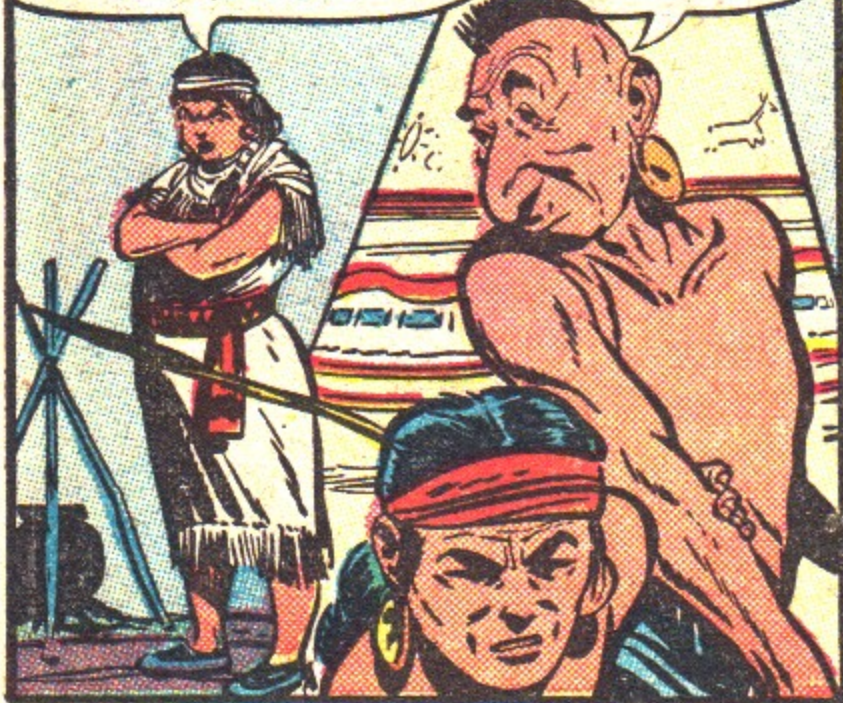
THERE'S SOMETHING MIGHTY FUNNY ABOUT ALL THIS. WHY SHOULD YOUR MEDICINE WORK FOR THE CROWS— AND NOT FOR THE CHEYENNES?



NEXT DAY, AFTER THEIR RETURN TO THE CHEYENNE VILLAGE, RED HAWK VISITS BIGFOOT—

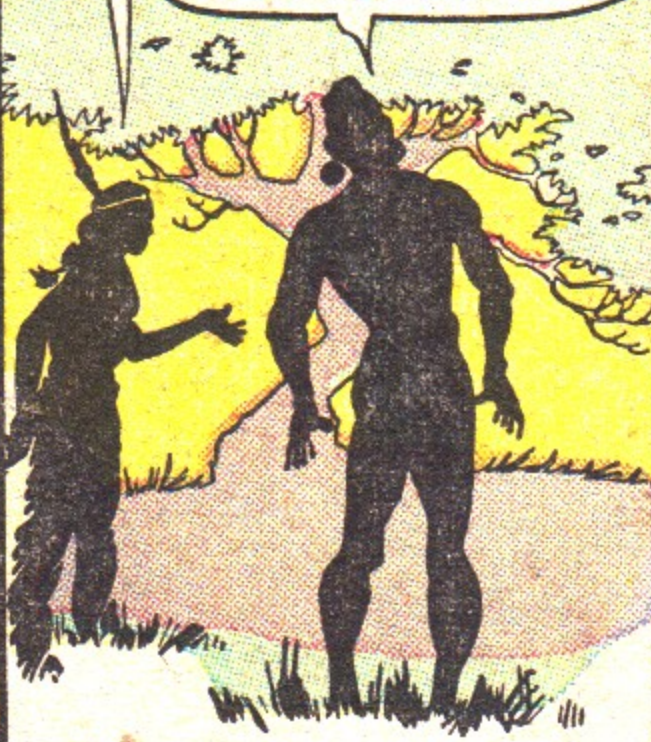
BIGFOOT, WHERE ARE YOU GOING WITH THAT GOOD-FOR-NOTHING RED HAWK? HE ALWAYS GETS YOU INTO TROUBLE!

HOW DO I KNOW WHERE I'M GOING? HE DIDN'T TELL ME!



RIDING OUT INTO THE HILLS, RED HAWK FINDS THE WILD FRUIT TREES—

EAT! EAT!?! LAST TIME I ATE THAT RAW FRUIT I GOT A STOMACHACHE!



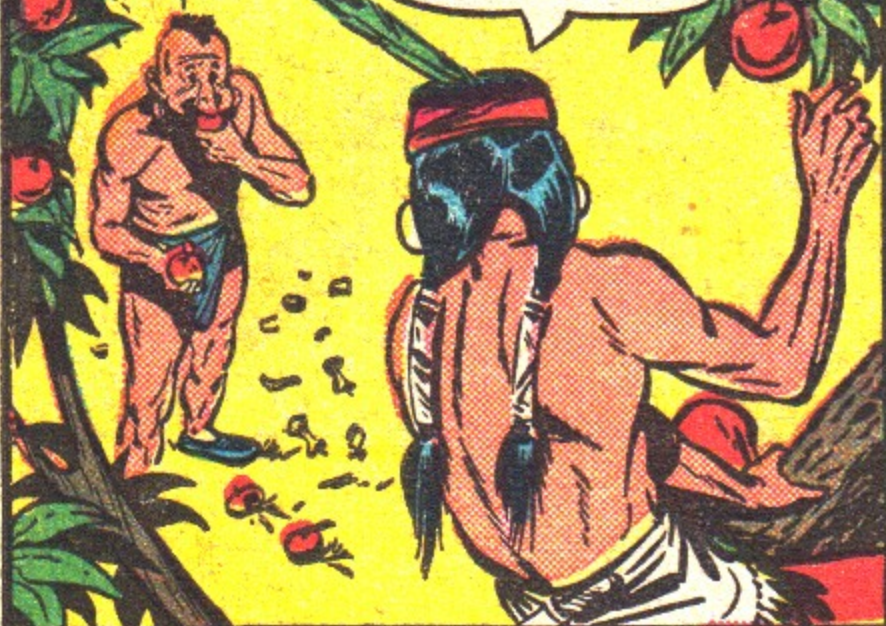
THAT'S JUST THE REASON YOU'RE GOING TO EAT IT AGAIN. I WANT YOU TO GET A STOMACHACHE!



AND SO BIGFOOT EATS AND EATS AND THEN EATS SOME-MORE—

I DON'T KNOW WHY I ALWAYS DO WHAT YOU TELL ME!

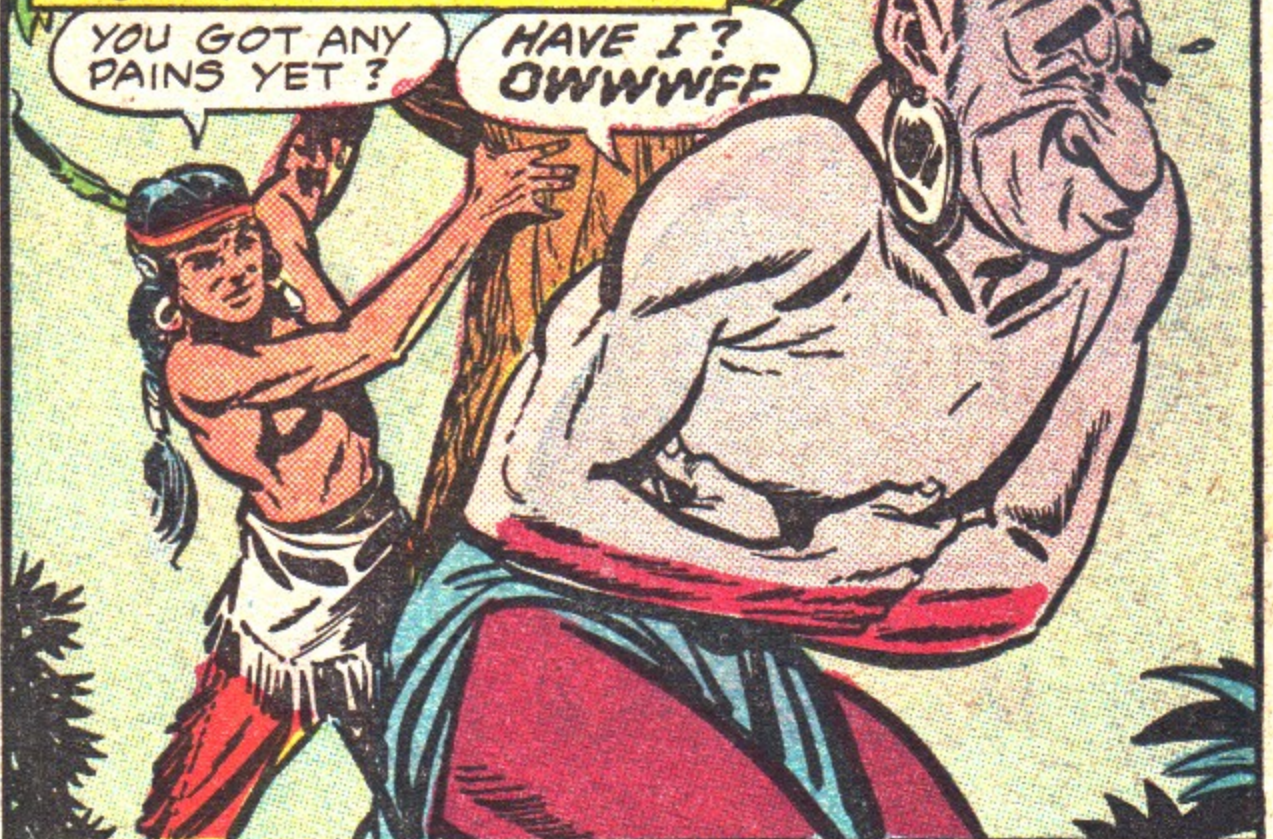
BECAUSE YOU LIKE THE EXCITEMENT WE GET INTO! STOP TALKING! YOU'RE WASTING TIME. JUST EAT!



AT LAST, EVEN RED HAWK IS SATISFIED...

YOU GOT ANY PAINS YET?

HAVE I? OWWWFF



THEN HE BRINGS HIS FRIEND TO MANY VISIONS TEEPEE...

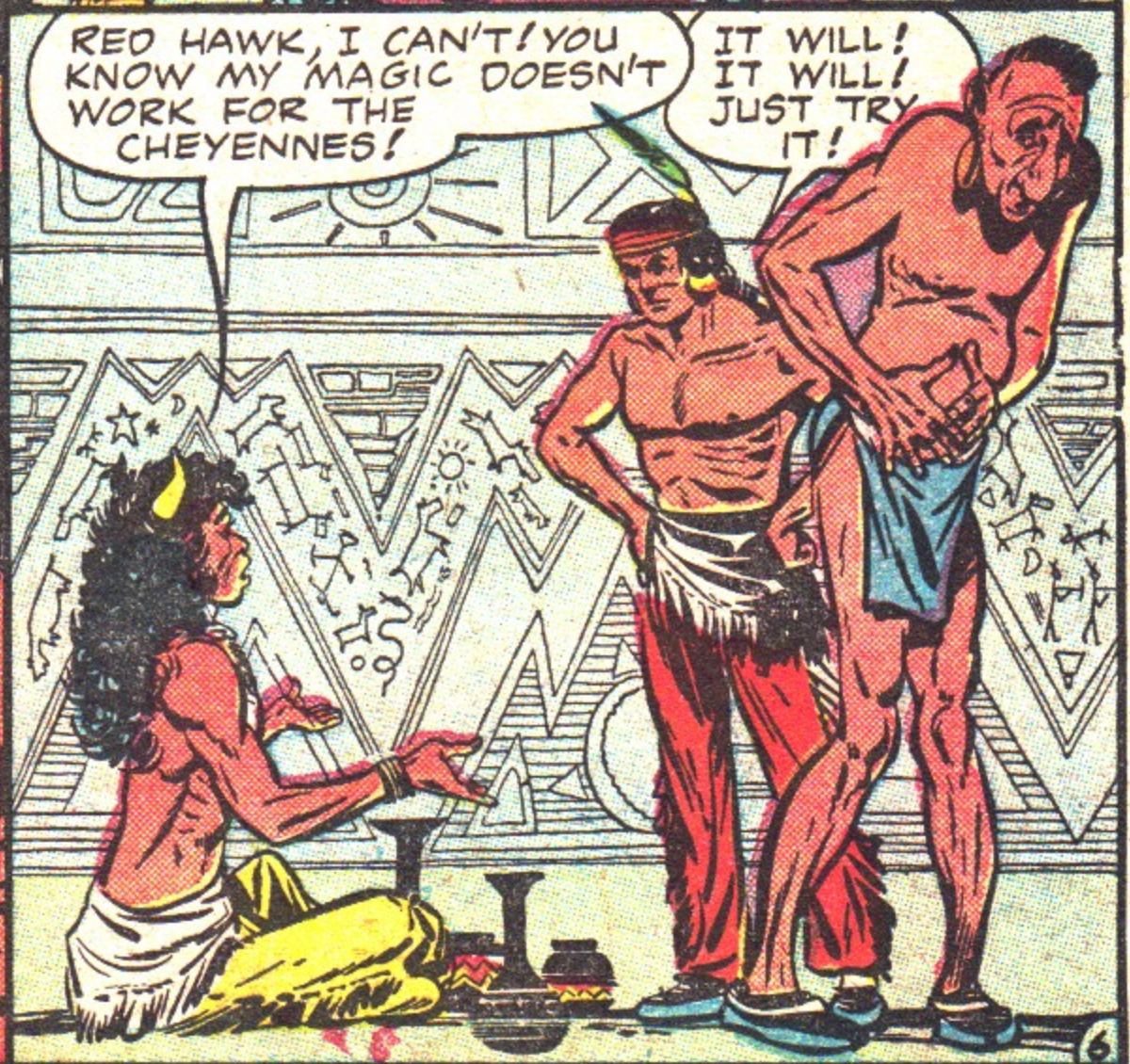
MANY VISIONS WILL MAKE YOU ALL BETTER!

OH, NO NOT HIM!



RED HAWK, I CAN'T! YOU KNOW MY MAGIC DOESN'T WORK FOR THE CHEYENNES!

IT WILL! IT WILL! JUST TRY IT!



ENCOURAGED BY RED HAWK'S
CHEERFULNESS AND BY BIGFOOT'S
GROANS MANY VISIONS RIDES
INTO THE HILLS...

I WANT YOU TO THROW
AWAY ALL YOUR **OLD**
MEDICINE AND GATHER
NEW HERBS, JUST AS
YOU DID FOR THE
CROWS.

I'LL DO ANY-
THING IF I CAN
HELP CURE MY
PEOPLE!

HE RETURNS TO HIS TEPEE
AND BEGINS MIXING—

WILL YOU
TWO HURRY
UP?

THERE. IT'S
ALMOST DONE
NOW!!

FOR A MOMENT, MANY VISIONS
SETS HIS FRESH MEDICINE
DOWN ON A BLANKET—AND
AT THAT MOMENT A HAND
SLIPS THROUGH A RENT IN
THE TEPEE...

I THOUGHT THIS WOULD
HAPPEN! MANY VISIONS,
GET OUTSIDE AND SEE
WHO THIS IS!

NEVER MIND! HERE HE
COMES NOW!... WELL, WELL—
IF IT ISN'T LAZY DOG, YOUR
RIVAL MEDICINE MAN! HE
KNEW LOTS OF PEOPLE
WOULD COME TO YOU AS A
MEDICINE MAN BECAUSE OF
YOUR FATHER'S
REPUTATION!

SO HE TOOK ALL YOUR GOOD HERBS
AND MIXED BAD HERBS IN WITH THEM,
WITH EVEN A PINCH OR TWO OF
POISON, TO MAKE EVERYBODY SICK!
HE DID IT TO GIVE YOU A BAD NAME.
SO HE COULD GET ALL THE MEDICINE
MAN BUSINESS FOR
HIMSELF!

NOW THAT YOU'VE TAKEN CARE
OF ALL THAT, WOULD SOMEBODY
MIND TAKING CARE OF **ME**
AND MY **STOMACHACHE ??**

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More People Get
Stamps from LITTLETON
than from Any Other
Concern in The World

COME ON! DON'T BE AFRAID OF STRAIGHT ARROW! SOON AS HE SEES WHO WE ARE, HE WON'T DARE STOP US!

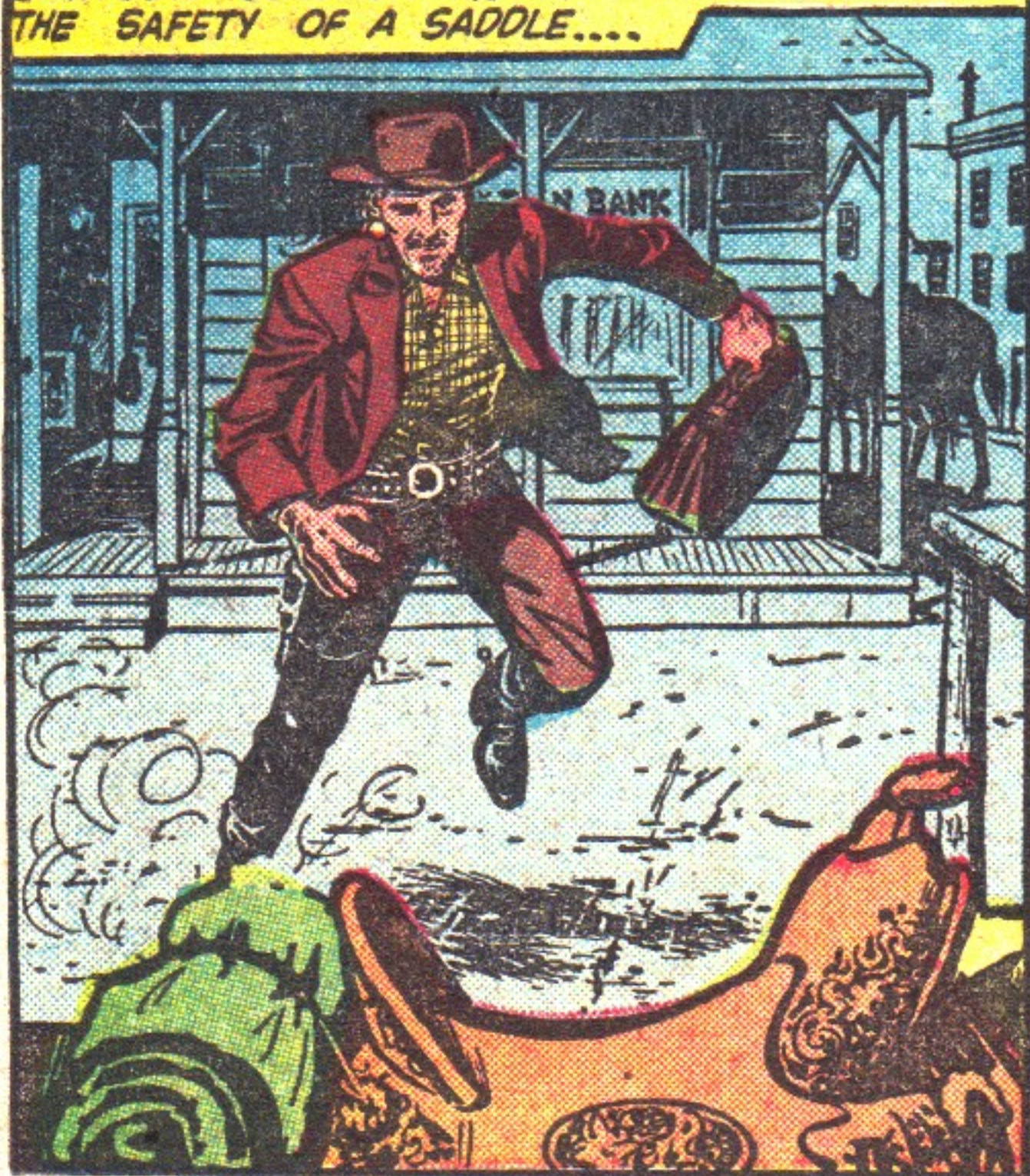
STRAIGHT ARROW

WHAT IS THIS STRANGE CHALLENGE THESE TWO LAWLESS MEN FLING IN THE TEETH OF THE GREAT STRAIGHT ARROW? IS HE REALLY AFRAID OF THEM? CAN HE AT LAST HAVE MET HIS MATCH? WHY ELSE WOULD HE LET THEM ROB WITHOUT TRYING TO STOP THEM? WHAT REASON WOULD HE HAVE FOR REFUSING TO FIGHT THEM? WHAT IS THE STRANGE 'RIDDLE OF —
"THE MEN WHO FRIGHTENED STRAIGHT ARROW!"

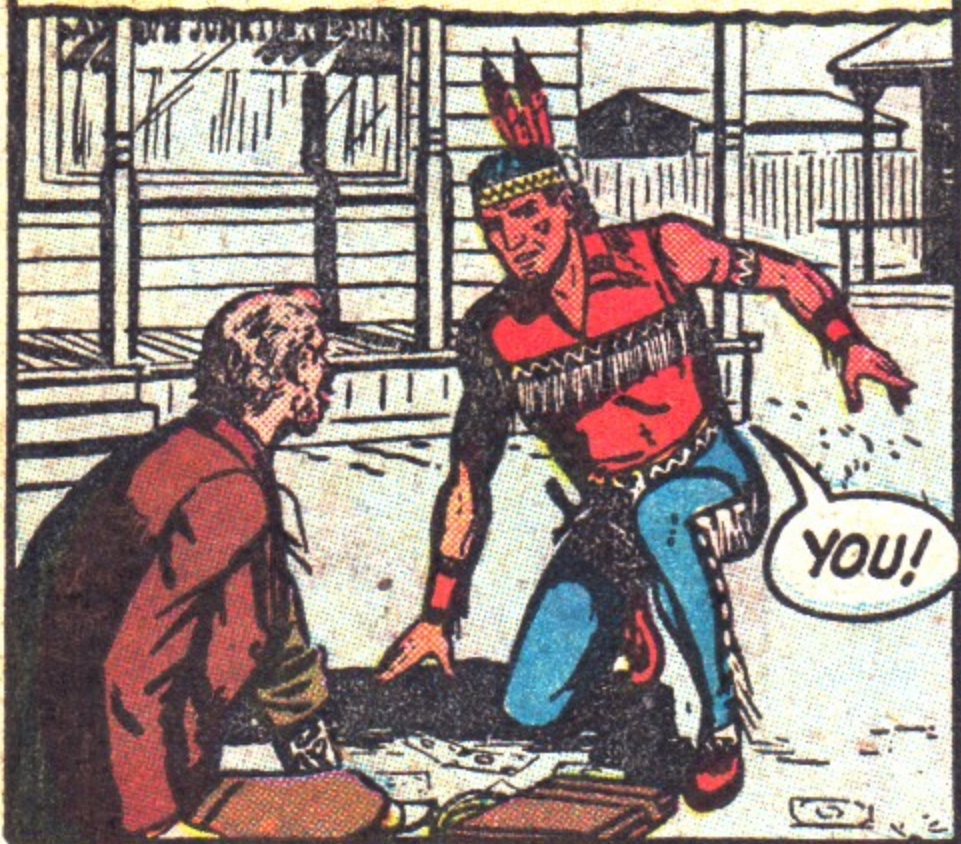
Fred Meagher

THE RASP OF A BOOT ON GRAVEL DISTURBS THE SILENCE OF THE LITTLE COW TOWN OF SAWTOOTH JUNCTION AS A MAN RACES FOR THE SAFETY OF A SADDLE....

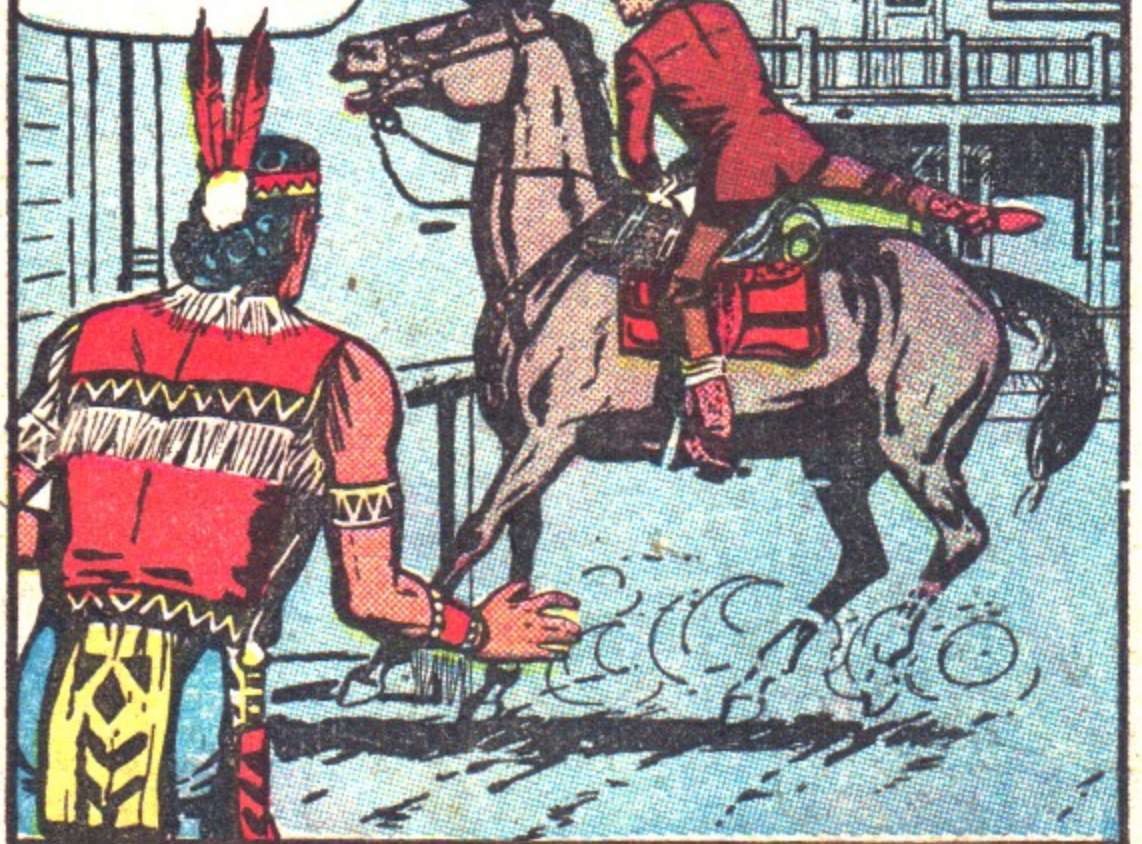
A SHADOW MOVES TO ONE SIDE. IN THE NEXT INSTANT, BLACK MIKE CARR GOES OFF HIS FEET BEFORE THE FURIOUS CHARGE OF STRAIGHT ARROW!



AS BLACK MIKE FALLS HEAVILY, STRAIGHT ARROW GETS A GOOD LOOK AT HIS FACE FOR THE FIRST TIME. SLOWLY, HIS EXPRESSION ALTERS...



GOOD THING YOU RECOGNIZED ME, INDIAN—OR MEBBE I'D HAVE HAD TO SHOOT YOU!



AS THE HOOFBEATS FADE DOWN THE STREET, THE SHERIFF GALLOPS UP... DOGGONE MY HIDE, STRAIGHT ARROW, DID I SEE RIGHT? I SAW YOU TACKE HIM— THEN YOU LET HIM GO!

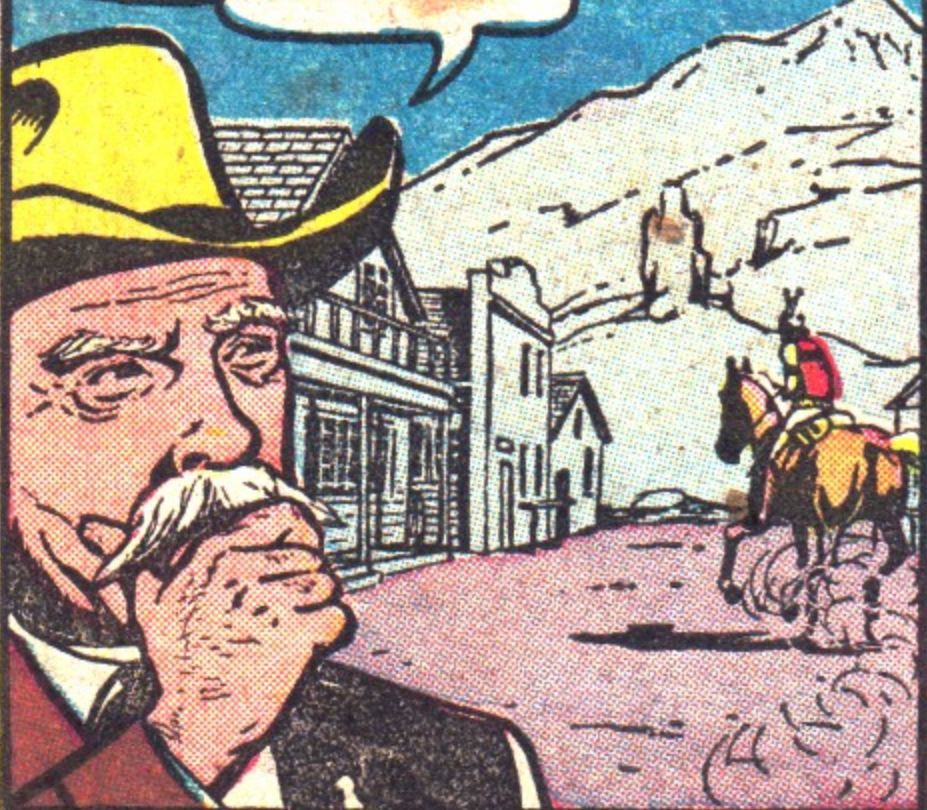


IF YOU SAW THAT, YOU SAW IT ALL!

BUT I DON'T UNDERSTAND. WHY'D YOU LET HIM GET LOOSE? YOU HAD HIM, EASY!



IF I DIDN'T KNOW BETTER, I'D SAY STRAIGHT ARROW WAS SCARED OF THAT HOMBRE. BUT THAT COULDN'T BE! OR— COULD IT?

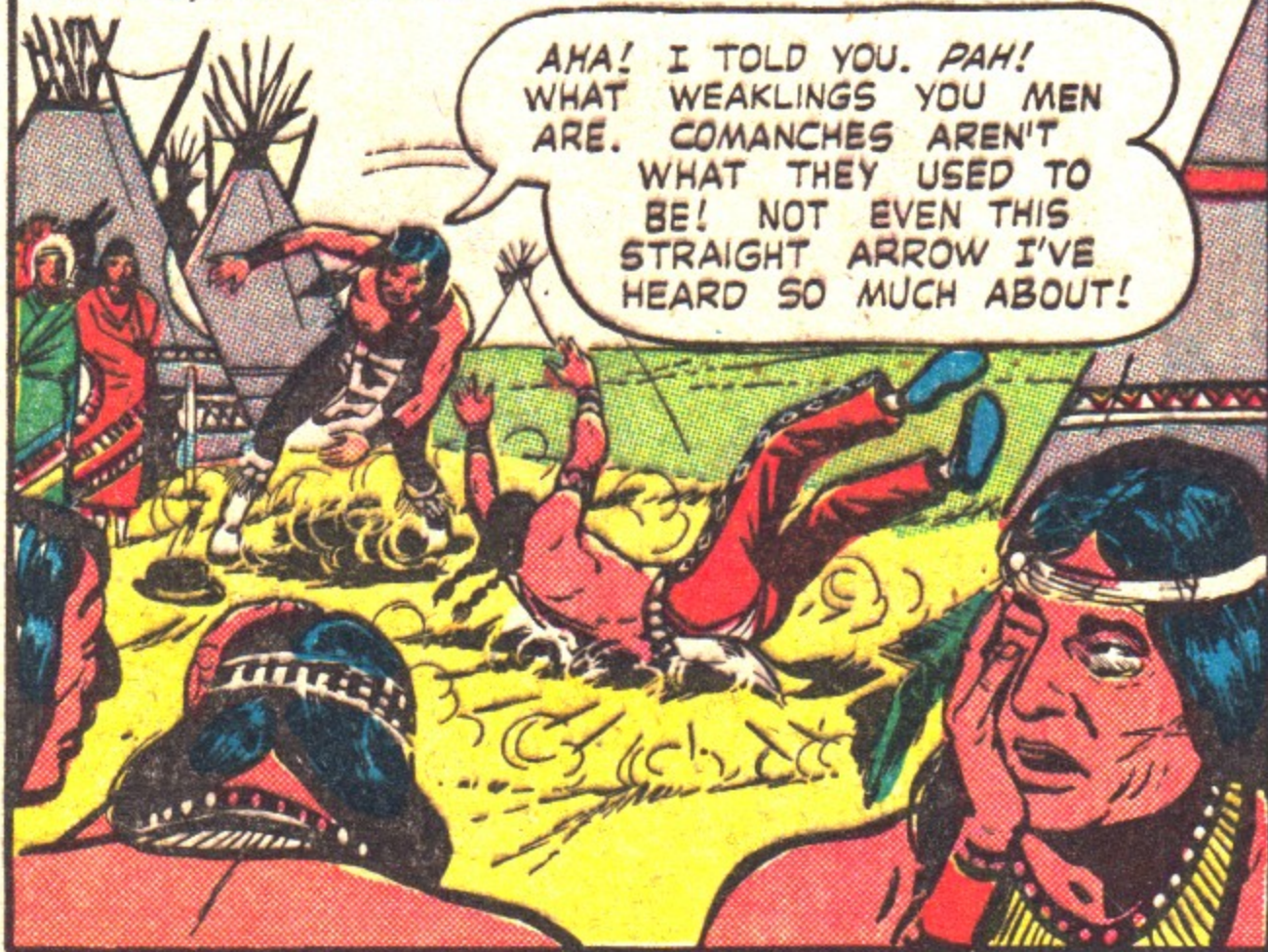


NEXT DAY IN THE COMANCHE CAMP BEYOND THE SUNDOWN MOUNTAINS

NOBODY CAN FIGHT LIKE ME. I'M COMANCHE JOE, FROM ANOTHER TRIBE. I'M THE BEST FIGHTER IN THE WHOLE COMANCHE NATION!



FEW MEN CAN MAKE GOOD THEIR BRAGGING WORDS WITH ACTIONS, BUT COMANCHE JOE IS THE EXCEPTION —



AHA! I TOLD YOU. PAH! WHAT WEAKLINGS YOU MEN ARE. COMANCHES AREN'T WHAT THEY USED TO BE! NOT EVEN THIS STRAIGHT ARROW I'VE HEARD SO MUCH ABOUT!

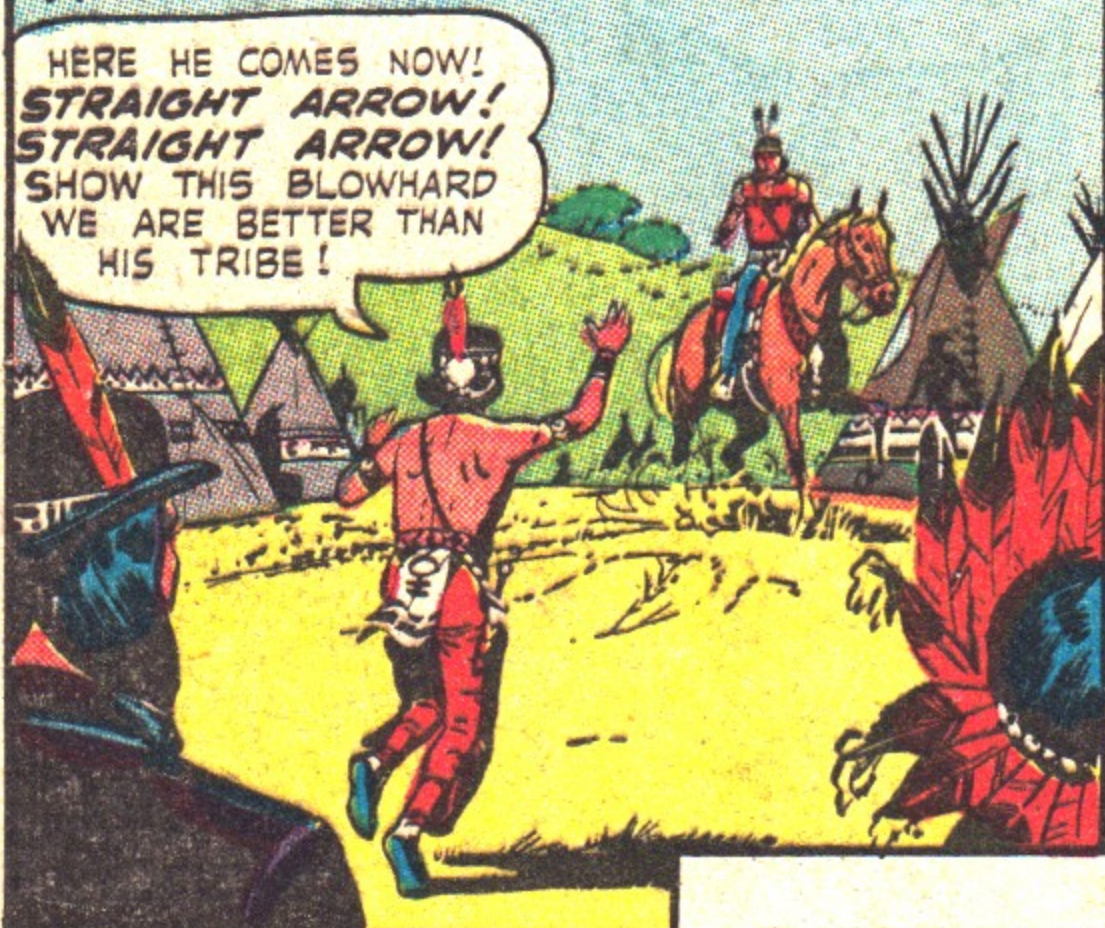
YOUNG TIIGA COMES TO THE DEFENSE OF HIS ABSENT FRIEND —



STRAIGHT ARROW ISN'T ANY WEAKLING! I'LL BET HE WILL THROW YOU THROUGH THE AIR!

WHERE IS THIS STRAIGHT ARROW?

AT THAT MOMENT...



HERE HE COMES NOW! STRAIGHT ARROW! STRAIGHT ARROW! SHOW THIS BLOWHARD WE ARE BETTER THAN HIS TRIBE!

TO TIIGA'S AMAZEMENT, HIS GOOD FRIEND TURNS HIS FACE AWAY AND MUMBLES...



NOT NOW, TIIGA! I-ER- I HAVE OTHER THINGS TO DO!

GULP!

HE'S AFRAID! HE'S AFRAID OF COMANCHE JOE! BUT HE CAN'T BE! STRAIGHT ARROW ISN'T AFRAID OF — OF ANYTHING!



ALONE, STRAIGHT ARROW ENTERS HIS TEPEE AND TIES THE FLAPS BEHIND HIM. THEN HE SITS CROSSLEGGED ON THE FLOOR AND STARES BLINDLY INTO SPACE —



AM I DOING THE RIGHT THING? HOW CAN I TELL THE SHERIFF AND YOUNG TIIGA I AM ACTING THIS WAY — TO SAVE A MAN'S LIFE...?

BOYS! GIRLS!

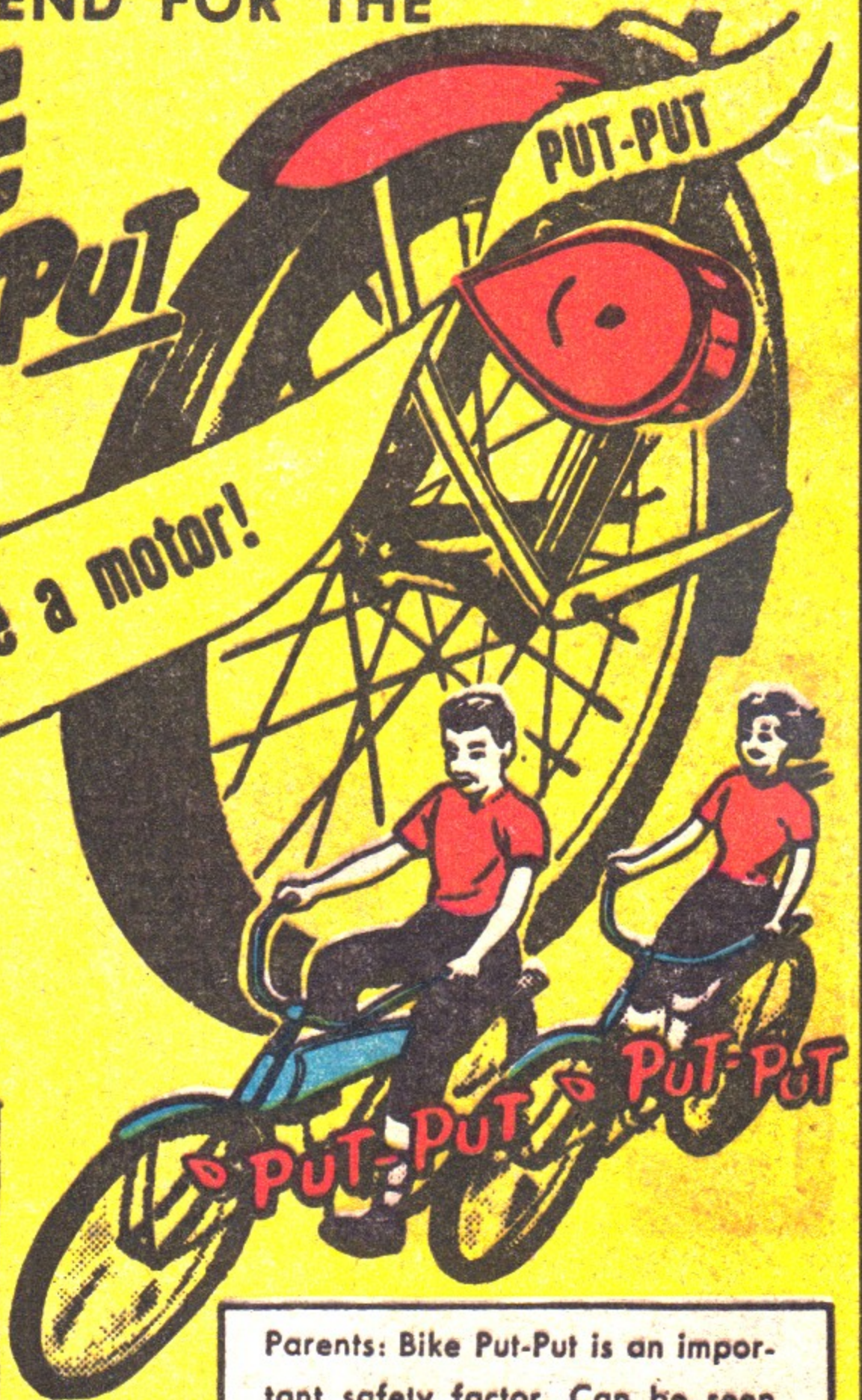
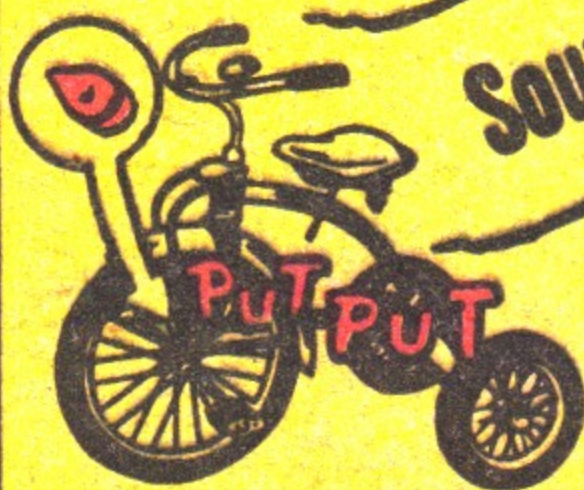
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NO
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Fellers: Here's my dollar! Rush BIKE PUT-PUT to me. If not completely satisfied, I can return merchandise for full refund.

Canadian & foreign orders: Send \$1.50 International money order.

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Fellers: Here's my dollar! Rush BIKE PUT-PUT to me. If not completely satisfied, I can return merchandise for full refund.

Canadian & foreign orders: Send \$1.50 International money order.

Name _____

PLEASE PRINT

Address _____

City _____ State _____



IN HIS MIND'S EYE, HIS TEPEE FADES AWAY AND STRAIGHT ARROW RELIVES AN AFTERNOON SOME WEEKS BEFORE, WHEN, AS **STEVE ADAMS**, HE WAS TRAVELLING ON THE UNION PACIFIC TRAIN WHEN IT CHUGGED TO A STOP AT THE TERRITORIAL JAIL. ONLY ONE MAN CAME ABOARD THE TRAIN — A MAN NAMED **EDWARD HARRIS**...

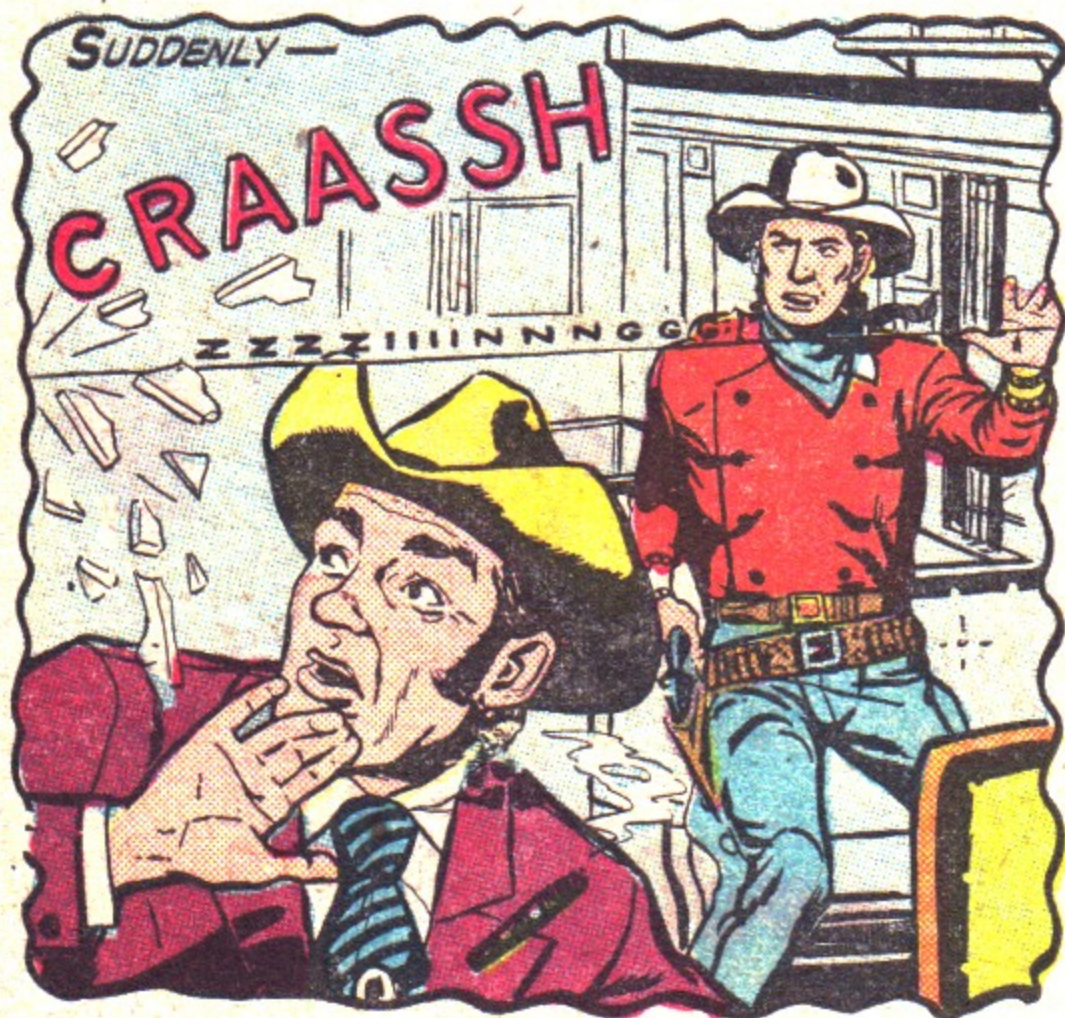



I'VE SEEN THAT FACE SOMEWHERE BEFORE. CAN'T QUITE PLACE IT, THOUGH!

SUDDENLY —

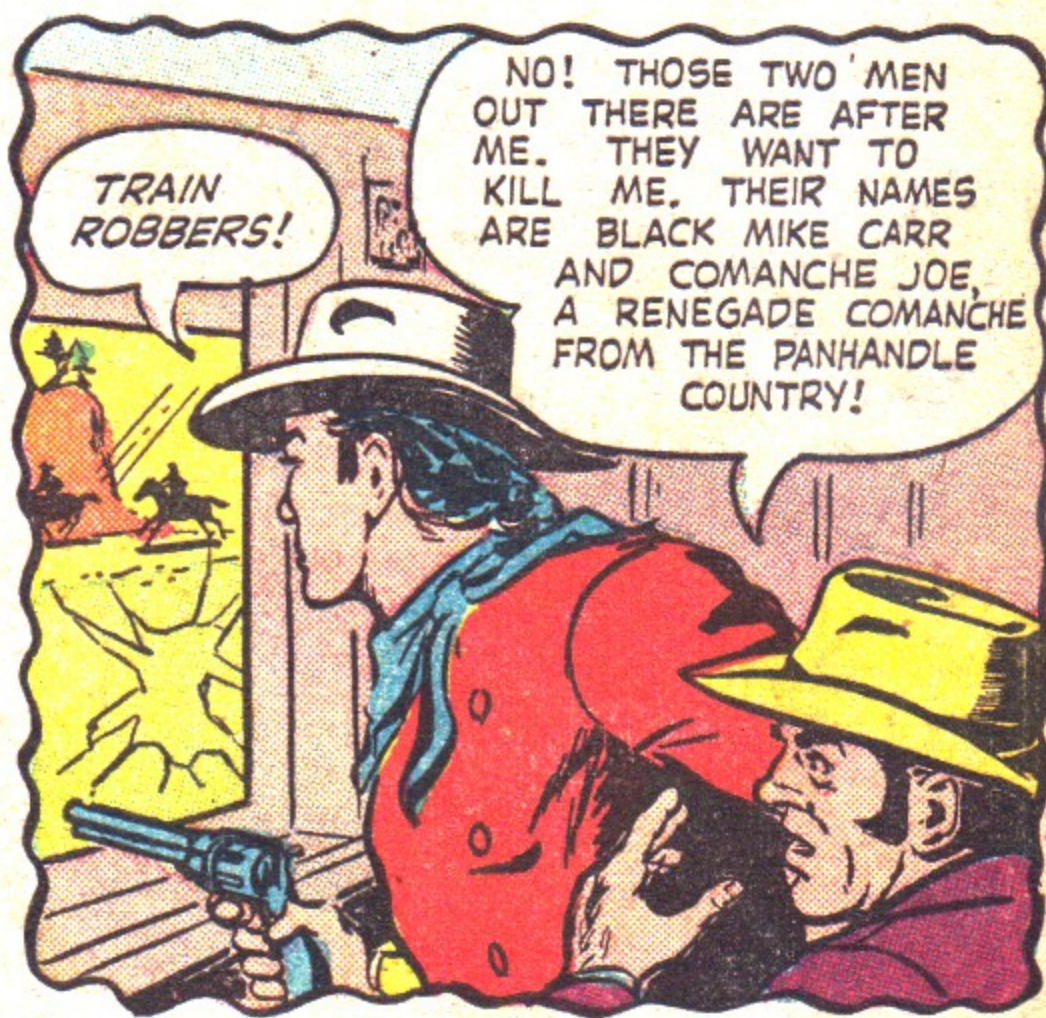
CRAASSH

ZZZZIIINNNGGG

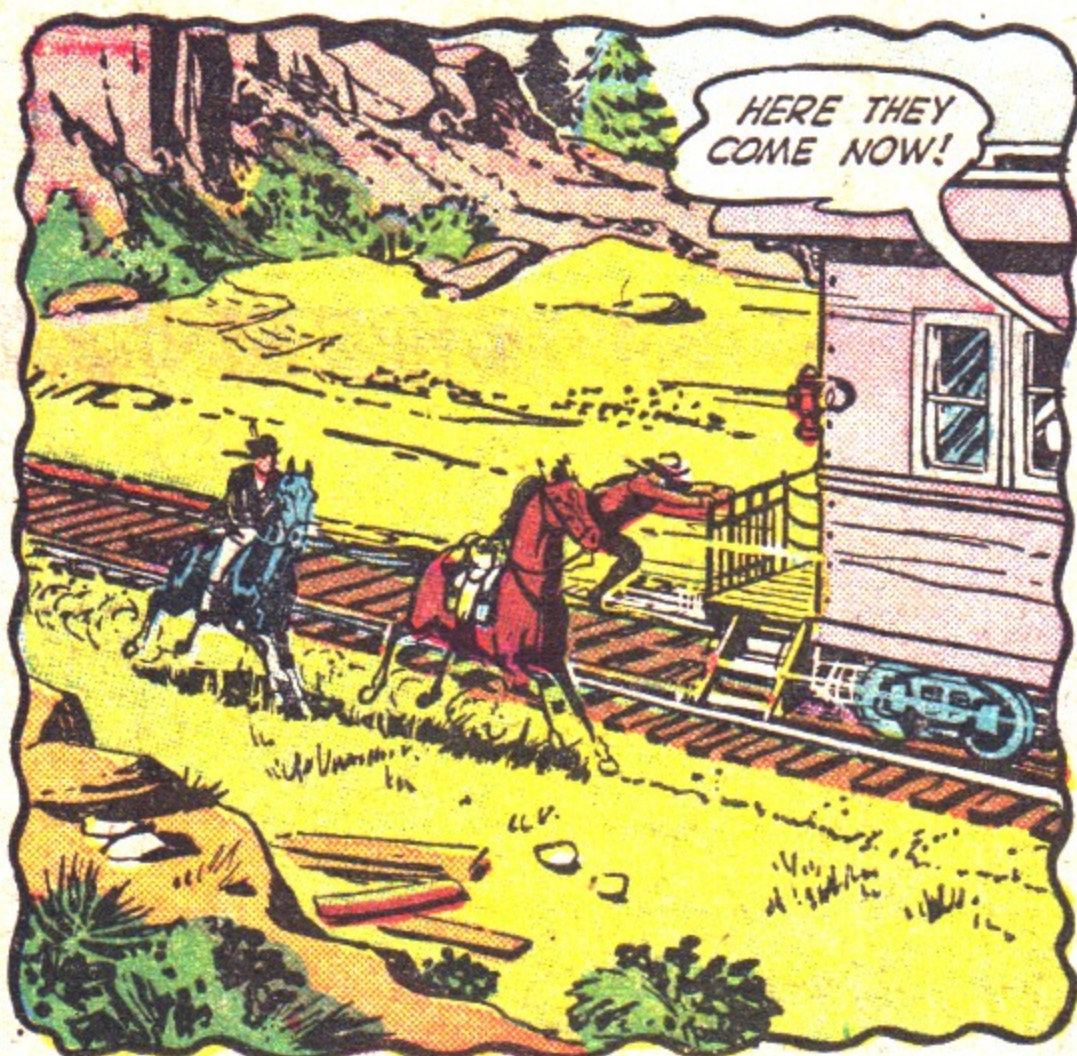


TRAIN ROBBERS!

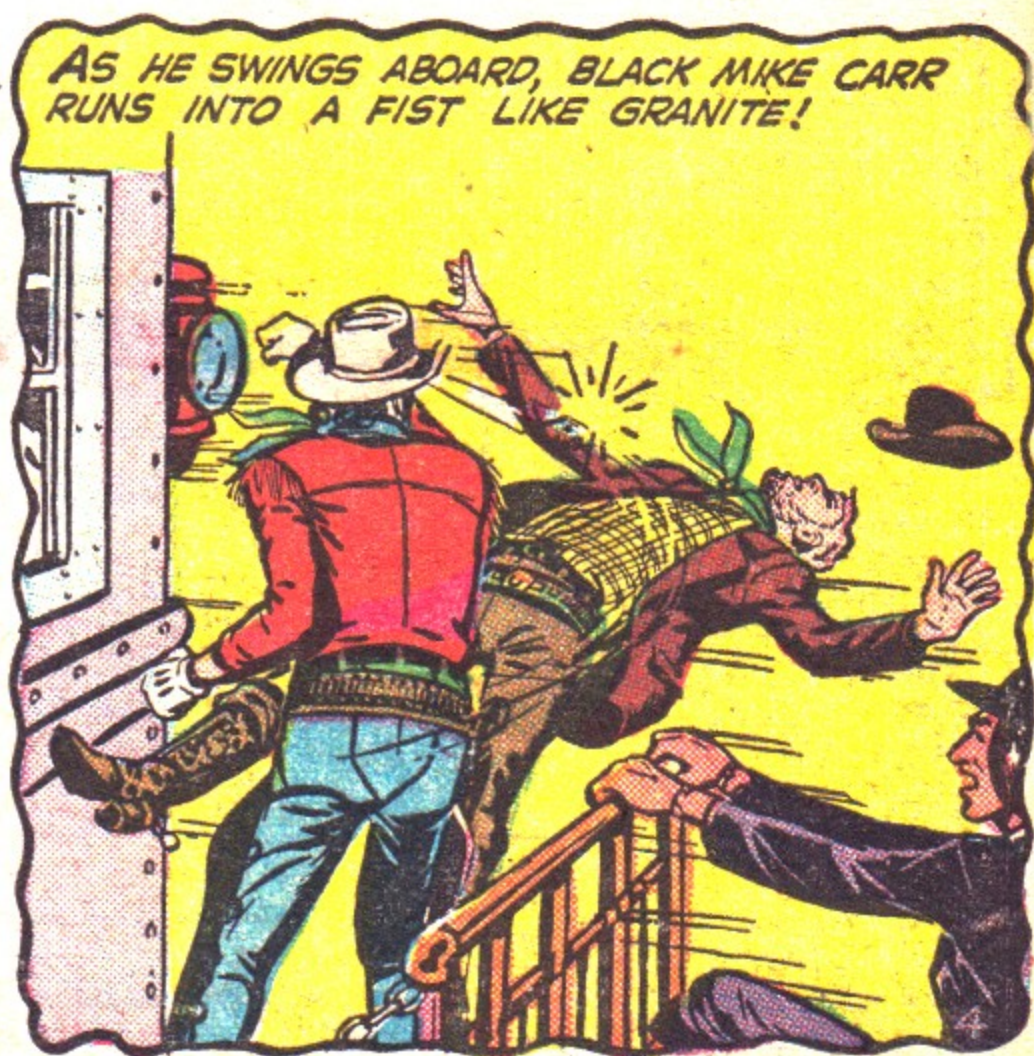
NO! THOSE TWO 'MEN OUT THERE ARE AFTER ME. THEY WANT TO KILL ME. THEIR NAMES ARE **BLACK MIKE CARR** AND **COMANCHE JOE**, A RENEGADE COMANCHE FROM THE PANHANDLE COUNTRY!

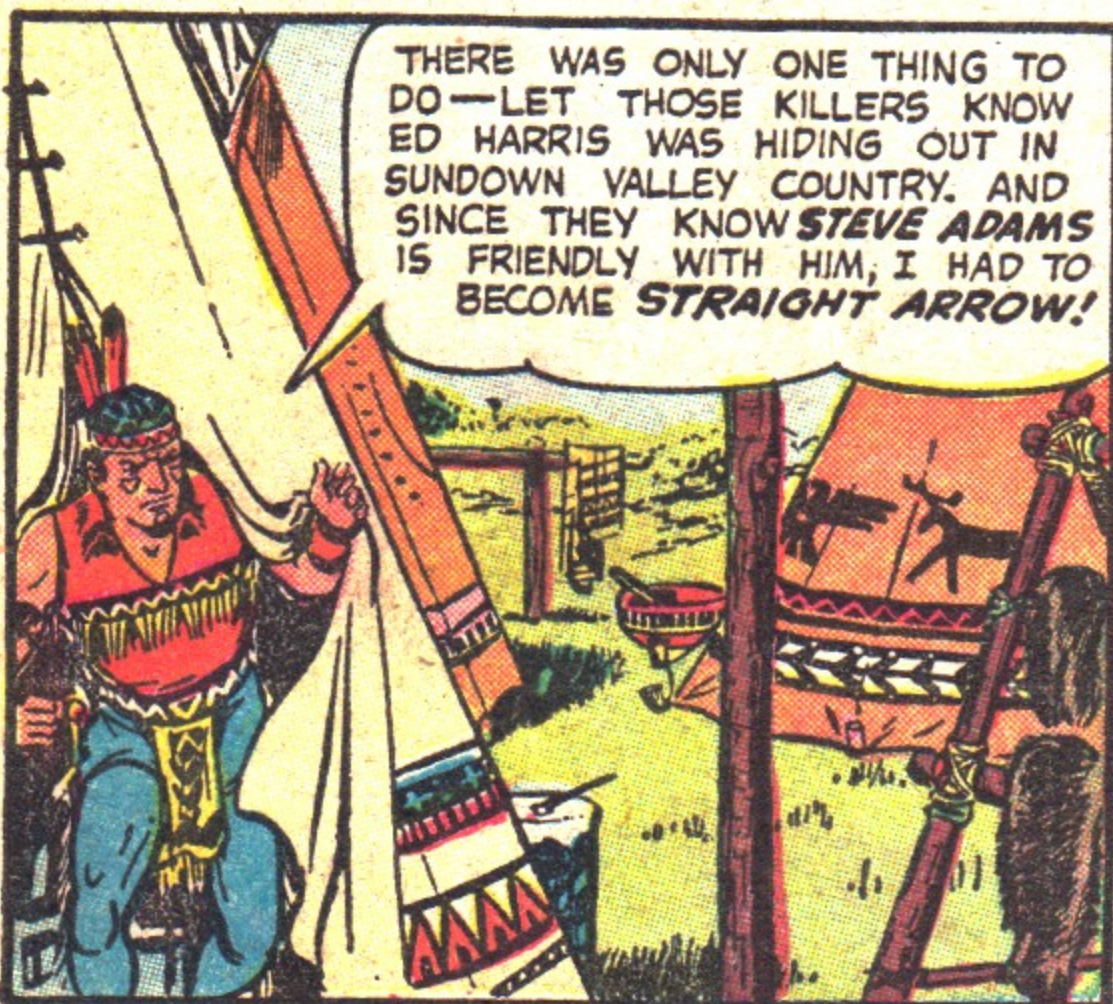
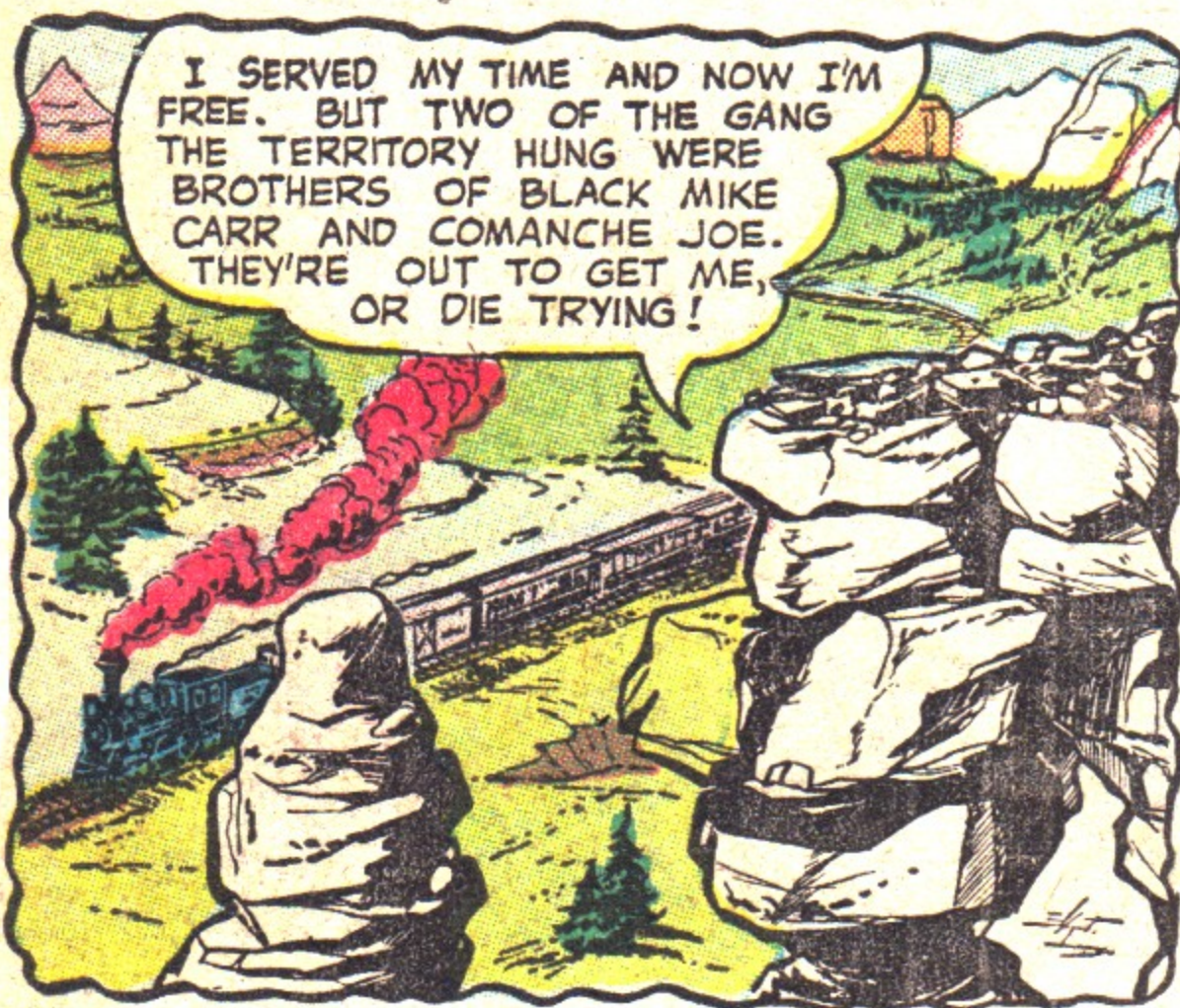
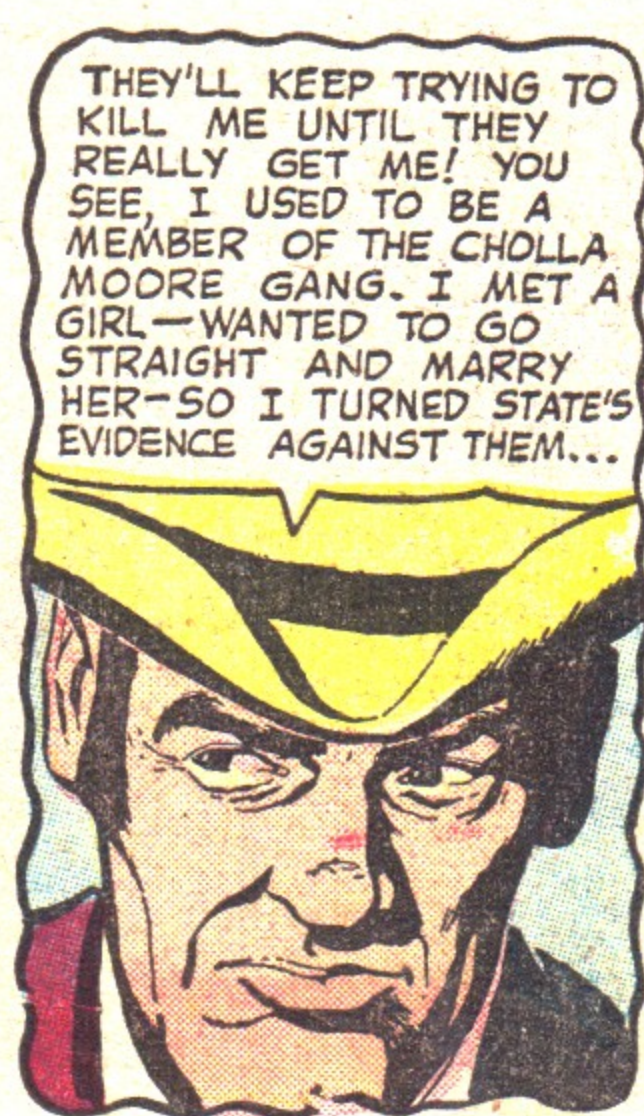


HERE THEY COME NOW!

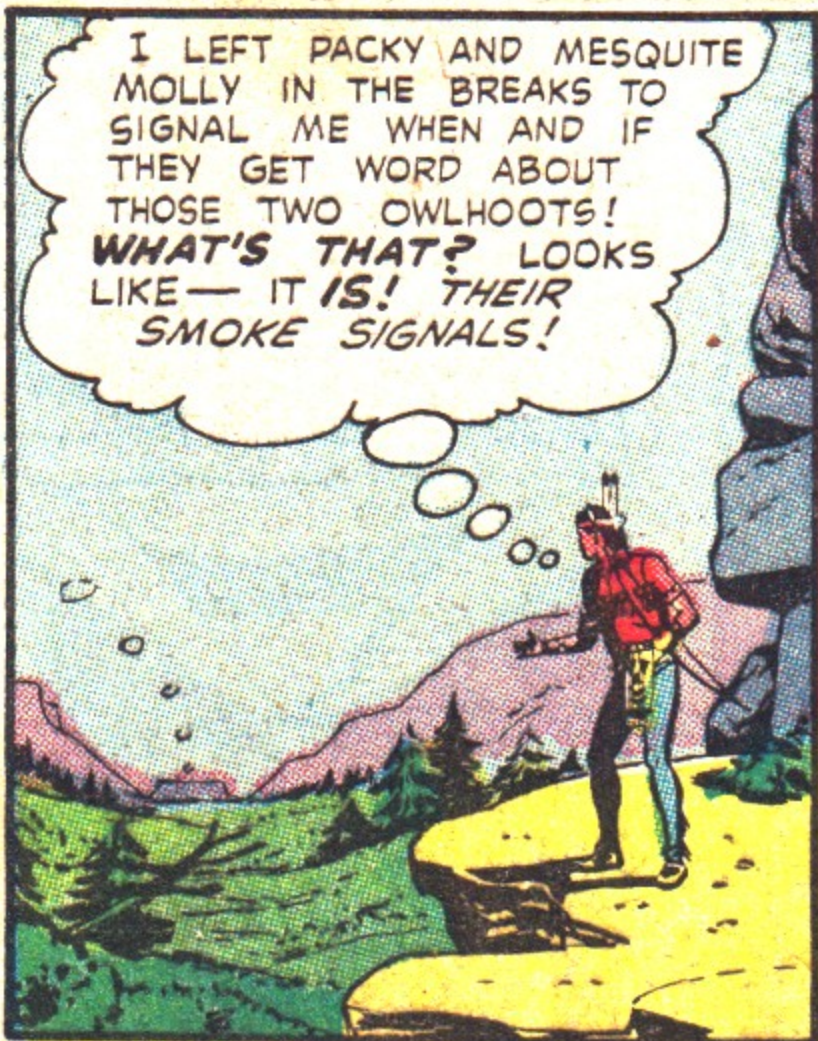


AS HE SWINGS ABOARD, **BLACK MIKE CARR** RUNS INTO A FIST LIKE GRANITE!

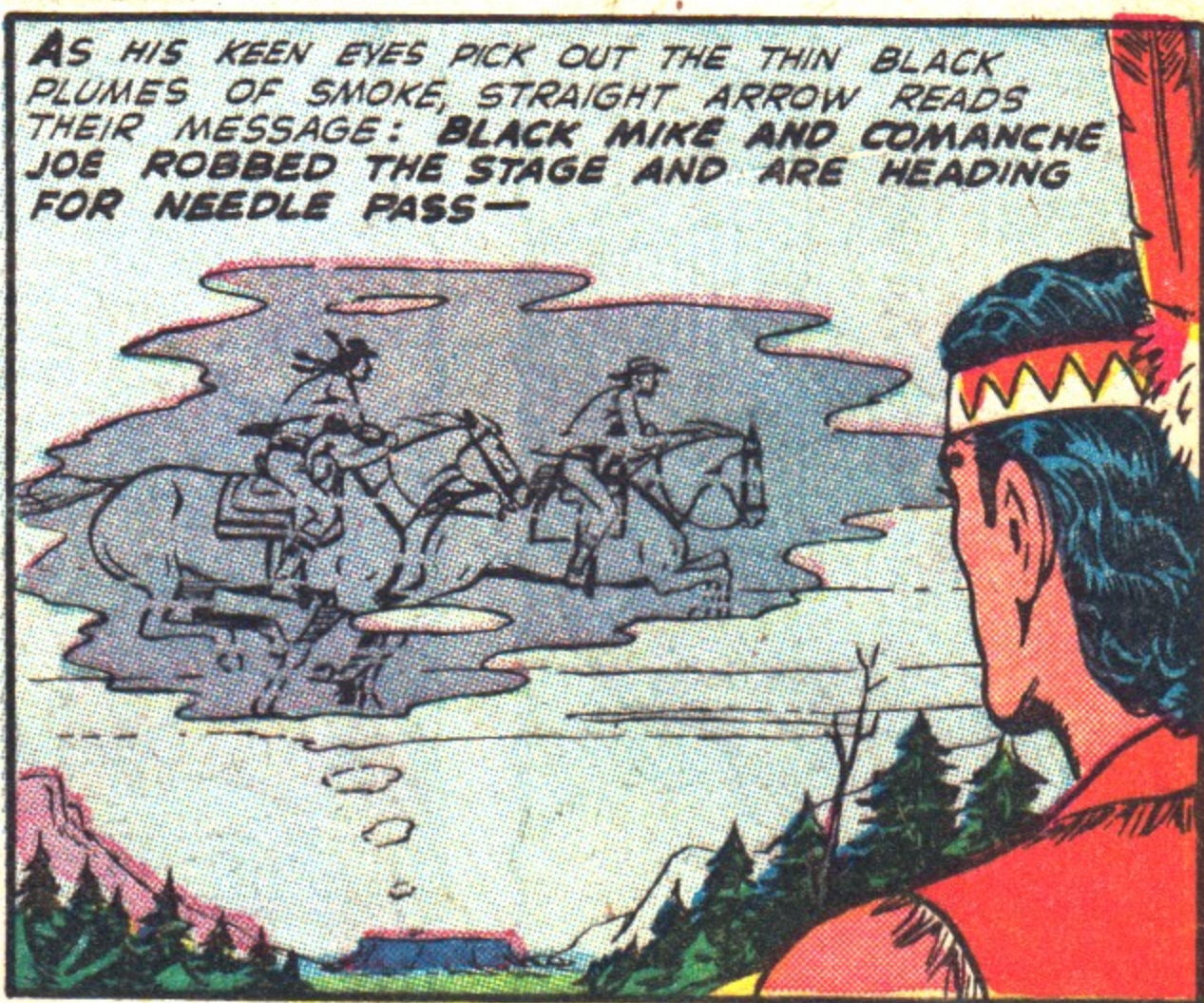




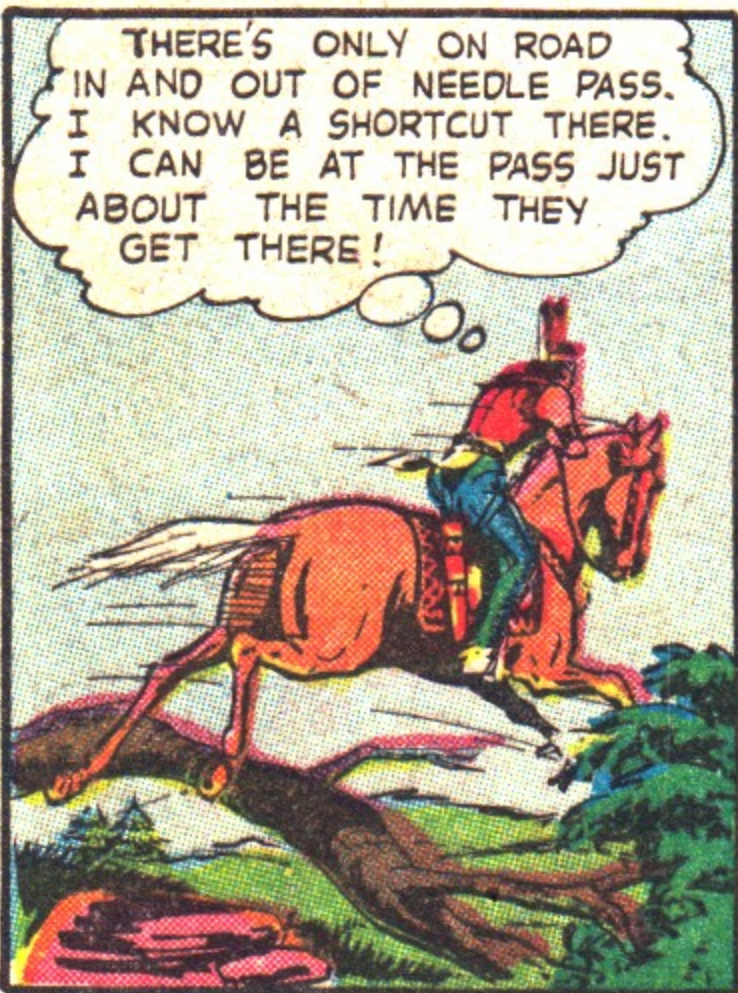
I LEFT PACKY AND MESQUITE MOLLY IN THE BREAKS TO SIGNAL ME WHEN AND IF THEY GET WORD ABOUT THOSE TWO OWLHOOTS! **WHAT'S THAT? LOOKS LIKE— IT IS! THEIR SMOKE SIGNALS!**



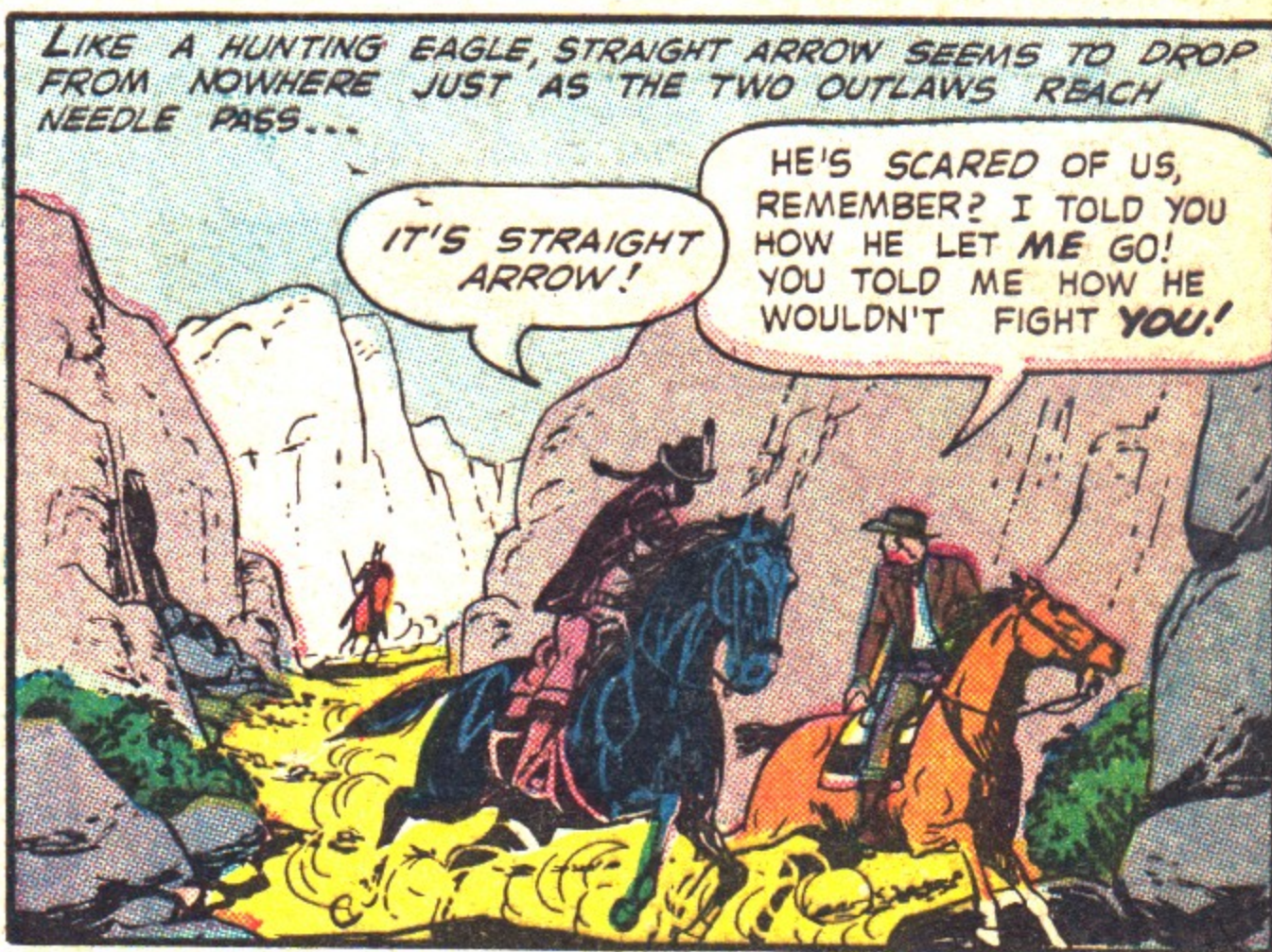
AS HIS KEEN EYES PICK OUT THE THIN BLACK PLUMES OF SMOKE, STRAIGHT ARROW READS THEIR MESSAGE: **BLACK MIKE AND COMANCHE JOE ROBBED THE STAGE AND ARE HEADING FOR NEEDLE PASS—**



THERE'S ONLY ONE ROAD IN AND OUT OF NEEDLE PASS. I KNOW A SHORTCUT THERE. I CAN BE AT THE PASS JUST ABOUT THE TIME THEY GET THERE!



LIKE A HUNTING EAGLE, STRAIGHT ARROW SEEMS TO DROP FROM NOWHERE JUST AS THE TWO OUTLAWS REACH NEEDLE PASS...



IT'S STRAIGHT ARROW!

HE'S SCARED OF US, REMEMBER? I TOLD YOU HOW HE LET ME GO! YOU TOLD ME HOW HE WOULDN'T FIGHT **YOU!**

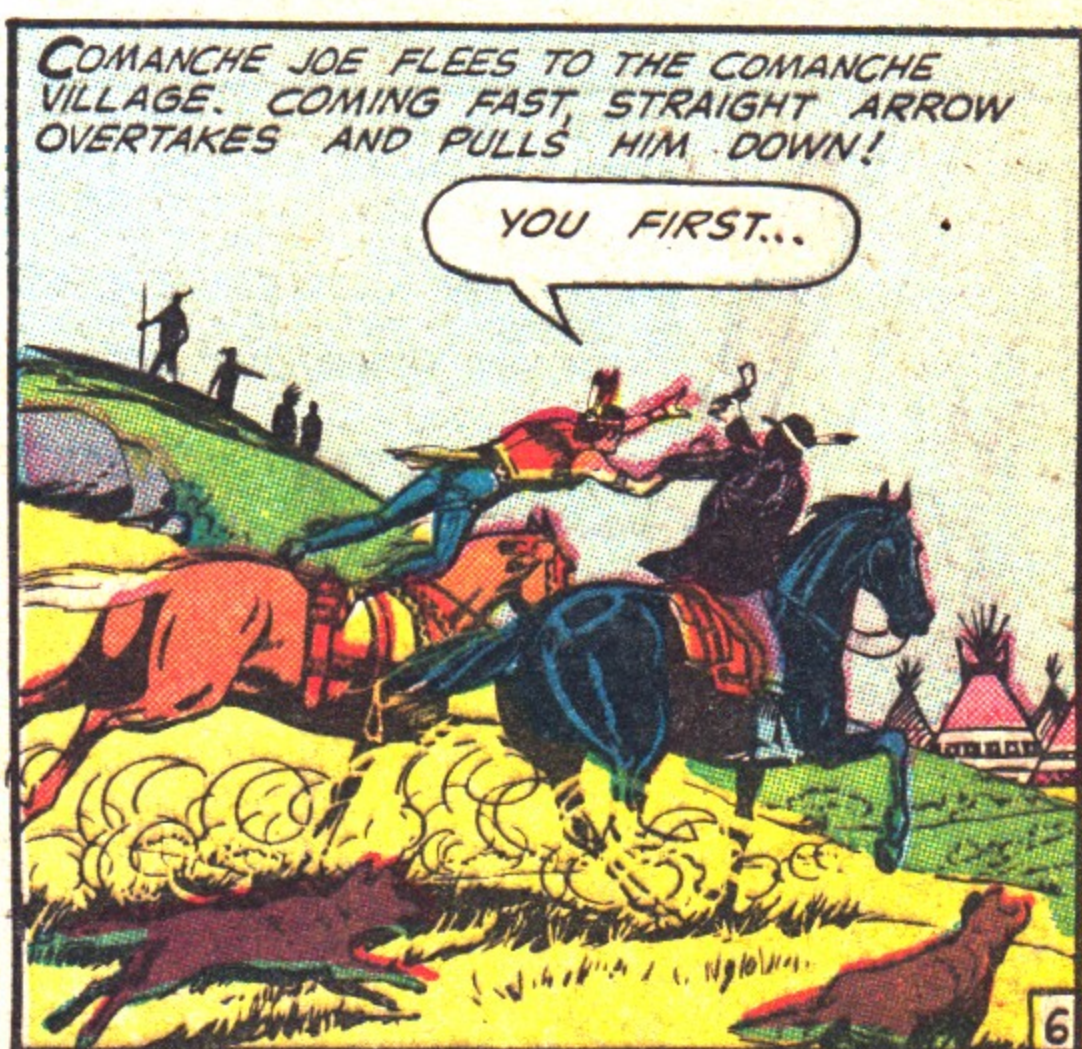
LOOKS LIKE AS IF HE GOT OVER HIS FEAR MIGHTY FAST!

THEN WE'LL SPLIT UP. YOU GO ONE WAY. I'LL GO THE OTHER. THAT WAY, ONE OF US WILL BE FREE TO FIND AND KILL HARRIS!

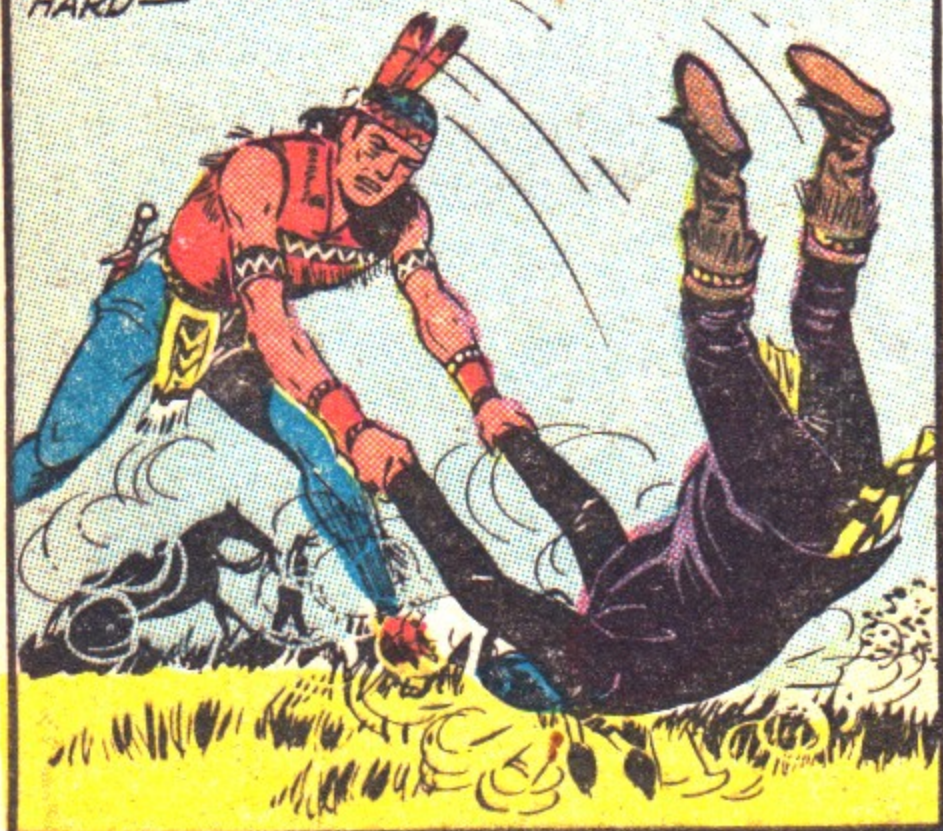


COMANCHE JOE FLEES TO THE COMANCHE VILLAGE. COMING FAST, STRAIGHT ARROW OVERTAKES AND PULLS HIM DOWN!

YOU FIRST...

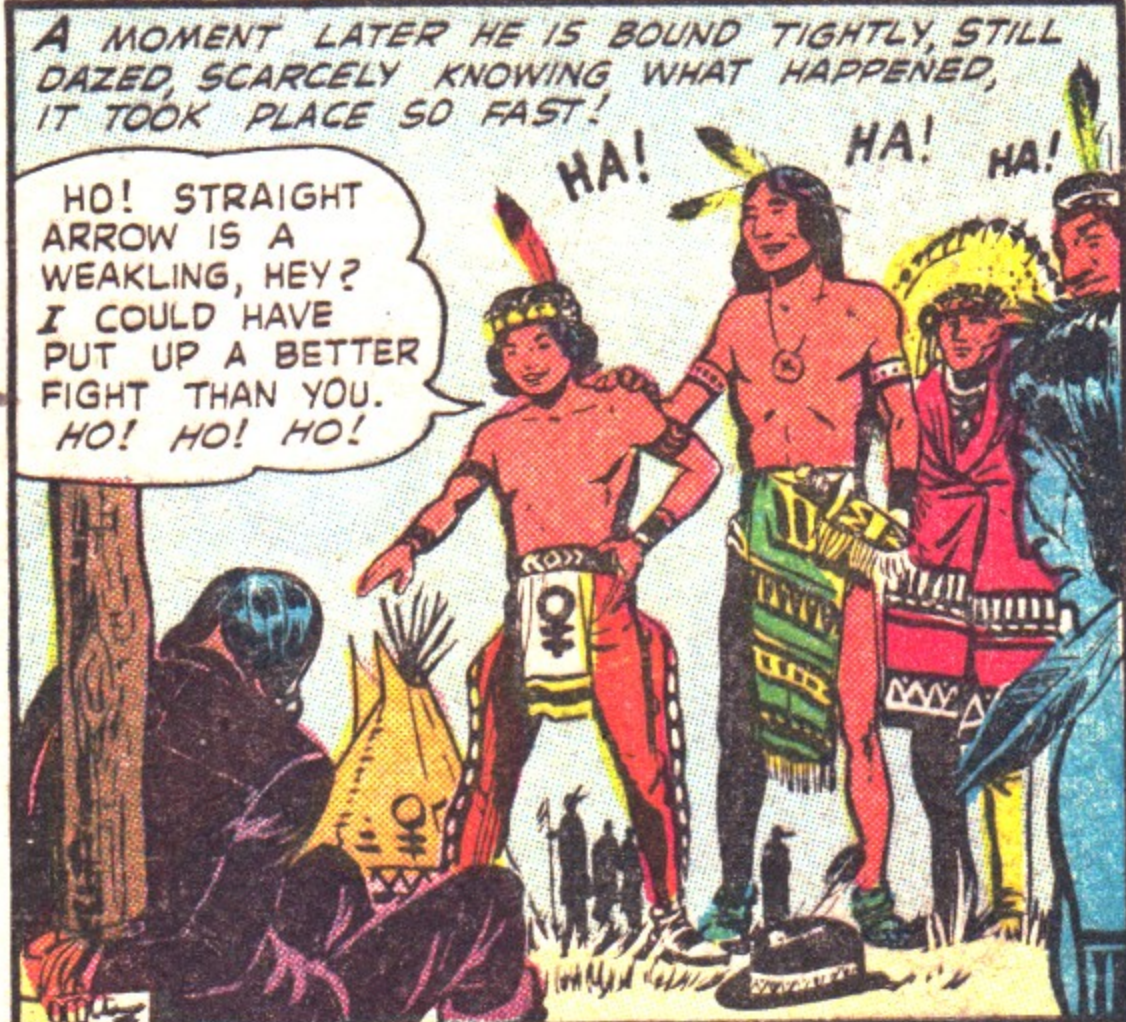


SWIFTLY THE GREAT COMANCHE WARCHIEF WHIRLS AND CATCHES THE RENEGADE IN A WRESTLING HOLD. COMANCHE JOE SAILS THROUGH THE AIR AND LANDS HARD—

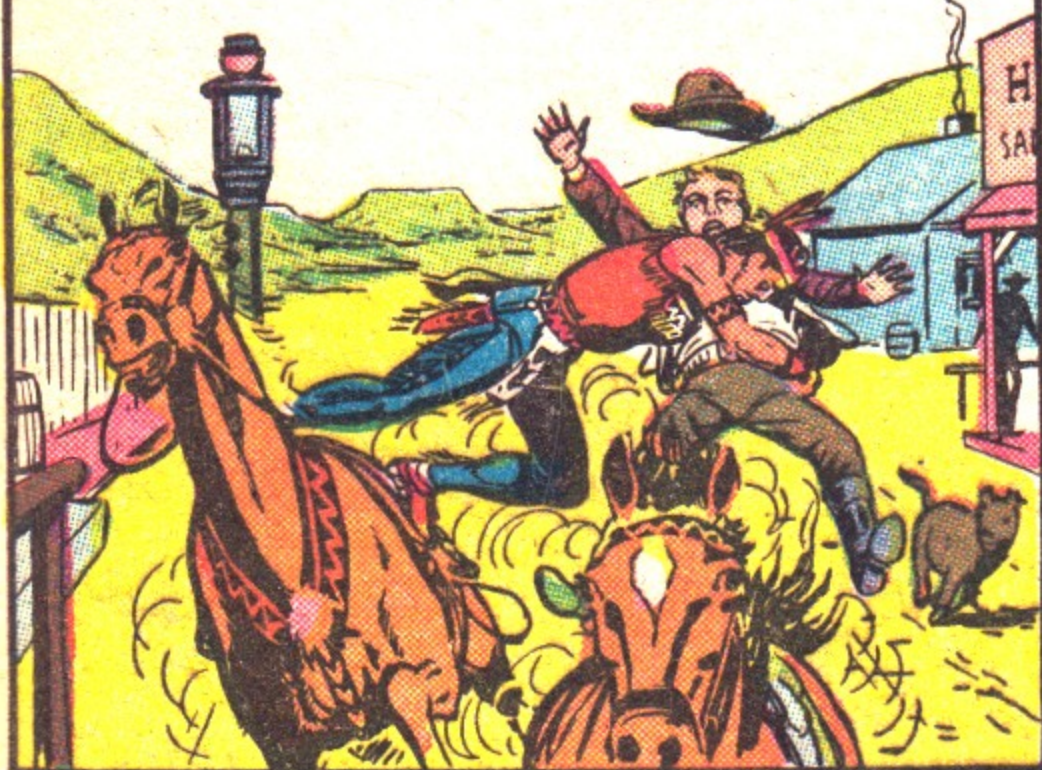


A MOMENT LATER HE IS BOUND TIGHTLY, STILL DAZED, SCARCELY KNOWING WHAT HAPPENED, IT TOOK PLACE SO FAST!

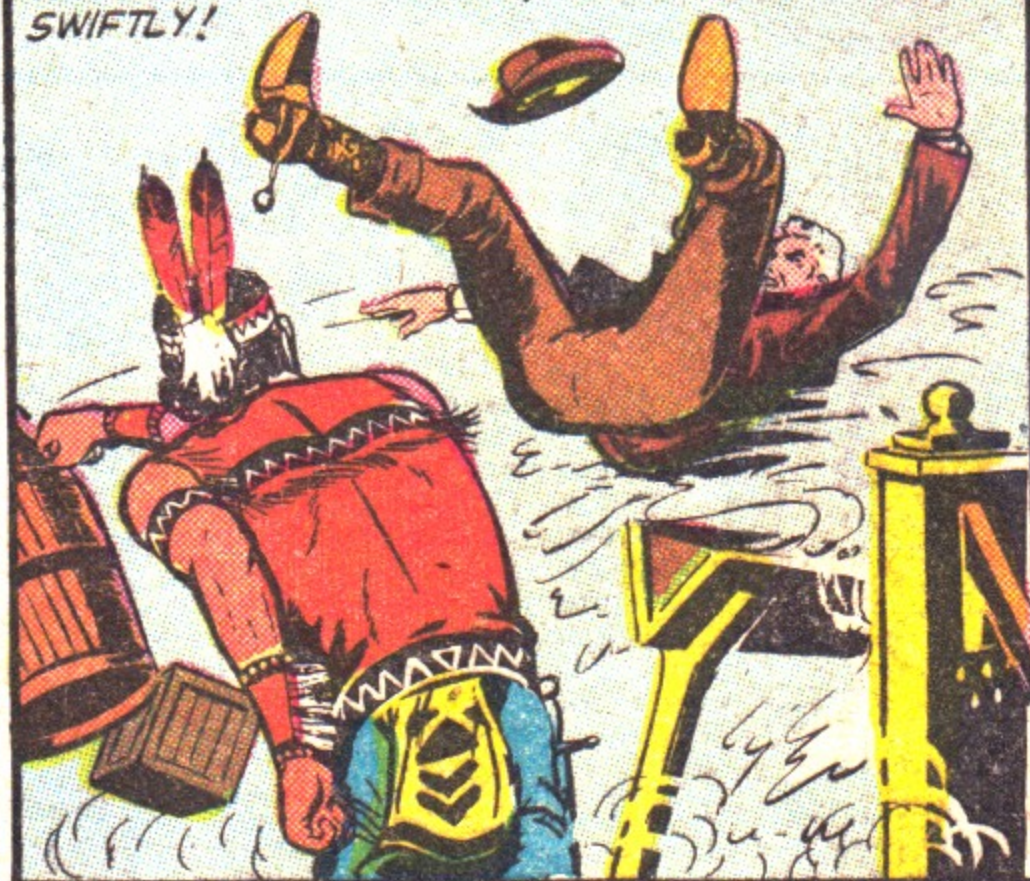
HO! STRAIGHT ARROW IS A WEAKLING, HEY? I COULD HAVE PUT UP A BETTER FIGHT THAN YOU. HO! HO! HO!



NEVER BEFORE HAS FURY RUN SO FAST! NEVER BEFORE HAS HE OVERTAKEN A FOE SO SOON—JUST AS BLACK MIKE REACHES THE OUTSKIRTS OF SAWTOOTH JUNCTION—

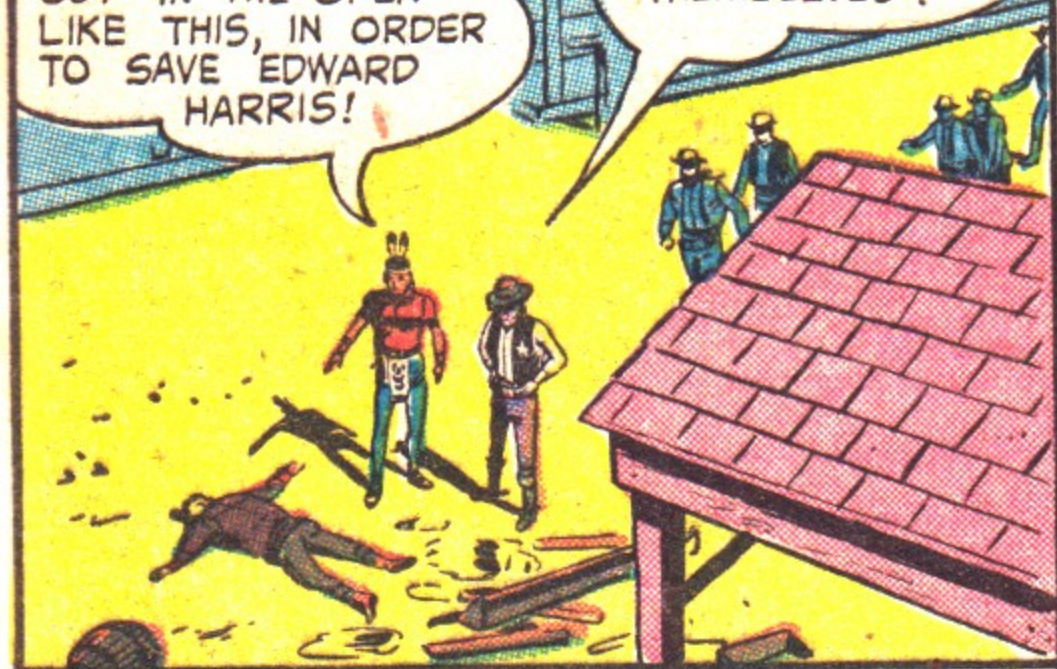


THE FIGHT IS SHORT. BLACK MIKE NEVER KNOWS WHAT HIT HIM, IT IS OVER SO SWIFTLY!



HERE'S YOUR BANK ROBBER, SHERIFF. YES, AND STAGECOACH ROBBER, TOO. THE OTHER ONE IS COMING IN WITH A COMANCHE ESCORT. I ONLY PRETENDED TO FEAR THEM, TO GET THEM TO COME OUT IN THE OPEN LIKE THIS, IN ORDER TO SAVE EDWARD HARRIS!

BUT WHERE IS HARRIS? HOW'D YOU HIDE HIM SO THEY COULDN'T FIND HIM WHILE YOU WAITED FOR THEM TO COMMIT THEMSELVES?



WITH THE HELP OF SOME OF MESQUITE MOLLY'S CLOTHES AND A WIG AND SOME PILLOWS WRAPPED AROUND HIM. EDWARD HARRIS WAS HIDDEN VERY WELL. THE REAL MESQUITE MOLLY WAS IN THE BREAKS WITH PACKY, WAITING TO SEND ME SMOKE SIGNALS!

WELL, I'LL BE DOGGED!



THE END

GIVEN - GIVEN - GIVEN

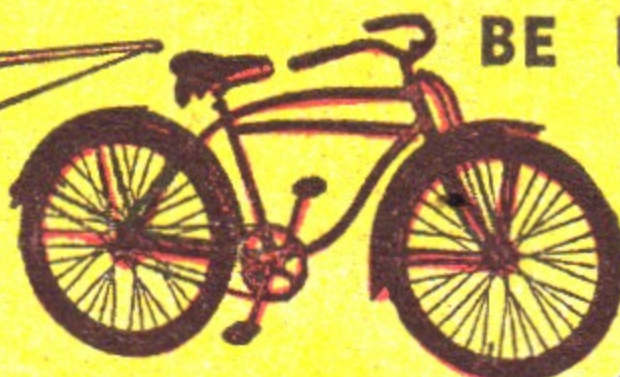
BE FIRST

BE FIRST

WE ARE RELIABLE



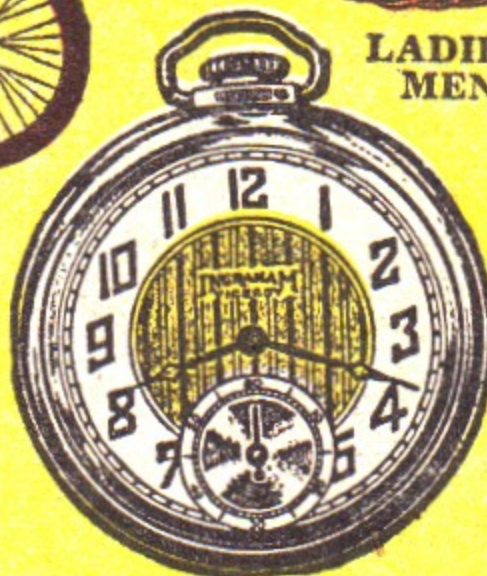
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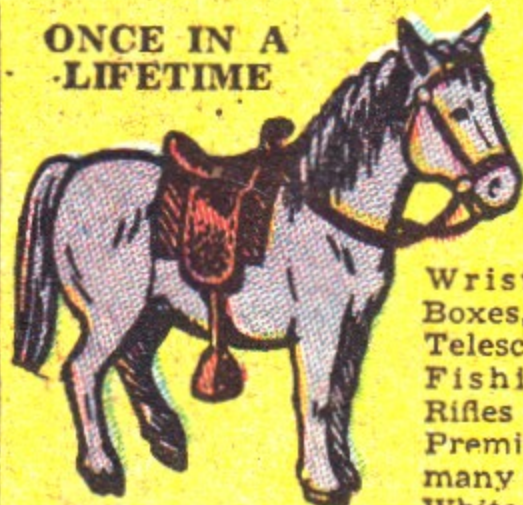
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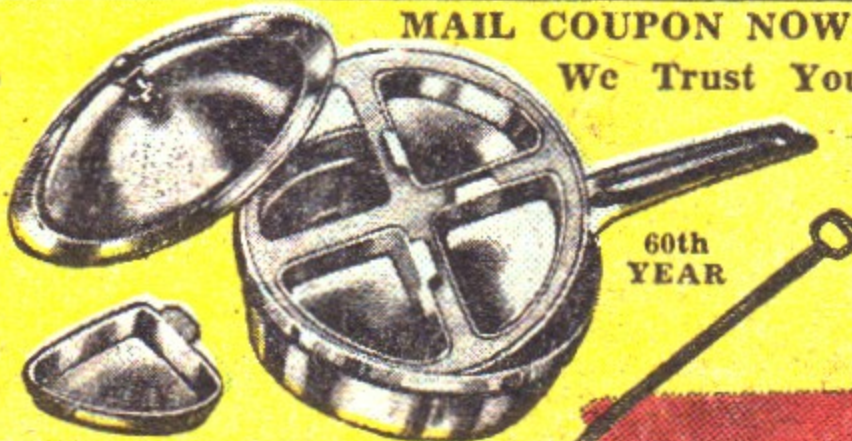


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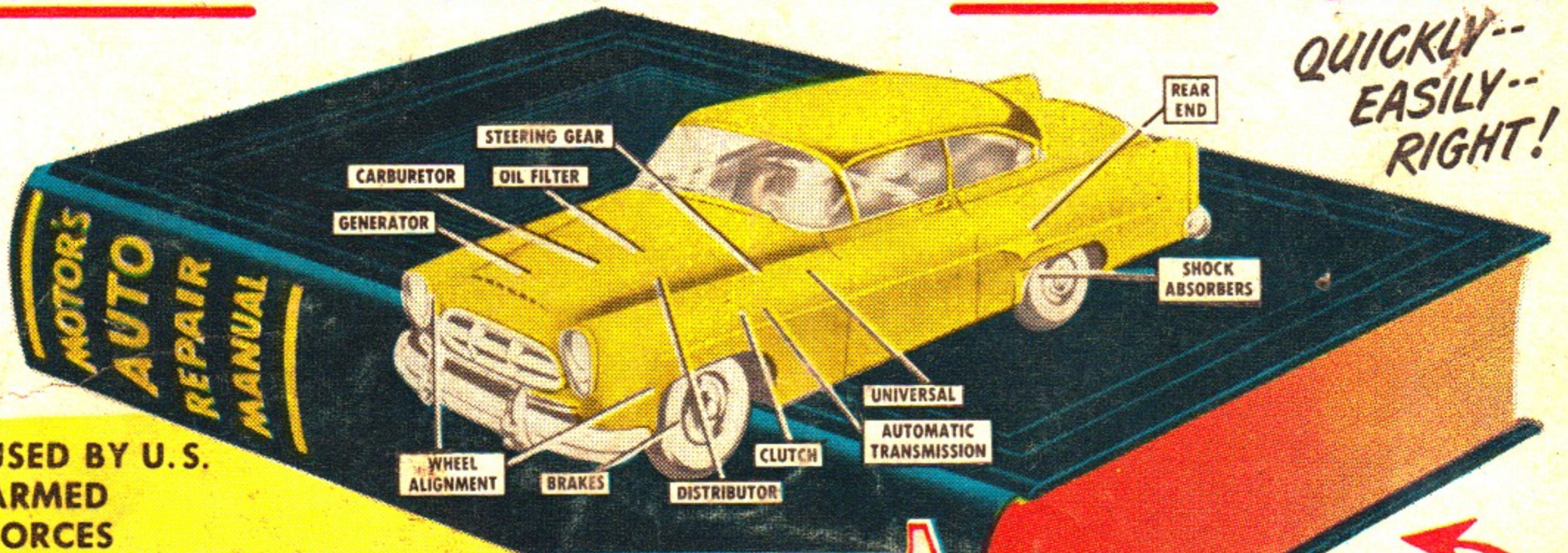
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